

Former gay porn actor Justin Raimondo spearheads the drive against funding for the proposed Gay Community Center.

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Twenty-five years in the pages of the Bay Area Reporter: a special supplement.

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SF Ballet takes a dip into 'Swan Lake.'

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BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 26 • No. 14 • 4 April 1996

Serving the Lesbian and Gay Community for over 25 Years



1st Lieutenant Andrew Holmes: "I had been biting my tongue for a long time."

JUDGE RULES AGAINST 'DON'T ASK'

by Dennis Conkin

A federal judge dealt a strong blow to the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy of discharging openly gay servicemembers Friday, March 29. District Court Judge Sandra Brown Armstrong ruled the policy violates U.S. Constitutional guarantees of equal protection and free speech, and ordered 1st Lieutenant Andrew Holmes reinstated to his post in the California Army National Guard and the U.S. Army National Guard.

Armstrong ruled that the military had unconstitutionally discharged Holmes "solely because of who he is, and not for anything that he had done."

In her exhaustive 59-page ruling, Armstrong wrote, "Despite their stated goal of proscribing homosexual conduct while ostensibly permitting homosexuals to serve, the ... directives target and punish servicemembers who simply acknowledge who they are."

"This is impermissible under our Constitution."

Loomis's unseemly briefs

Armstrong is a former Oakland police officer who later became a prosecutor in the Alameda County District Attorney's office. A Republican, she was appointed to the bench by former President George Bush.

In her ruling she also singled out deputy state attorney Andrew Loomis, who represented California in oral arguments and written briefs before the court, for his "highly unseemly and unprofessional commentary, which litters the California defendants' briefs."

Loomis submitted briefs that compared homosexuality to rape, incest, bestiality, and cannibalism, and said

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HIGHER LEARNING

NEW MAIN LIBRARY TO HOUSE G/L THINK TANK

by Matthew Kennedy

With stunning regularity, great historic moments seem to be happening in San Francisco. The past two and a half years alone have witnessed significant cultural change with the opening of the Center for the Arts at Yerba Buena and the building of a new home for the Museum of Modern Art. More recently, the Palace of the Legion of Honor at Lincoln Park got a face-lift, and in the near future the Jewish Museum (and quite possibly the Mexican Museum) will get new and improved digs across the street from the Center for the Arts on Mission Street.

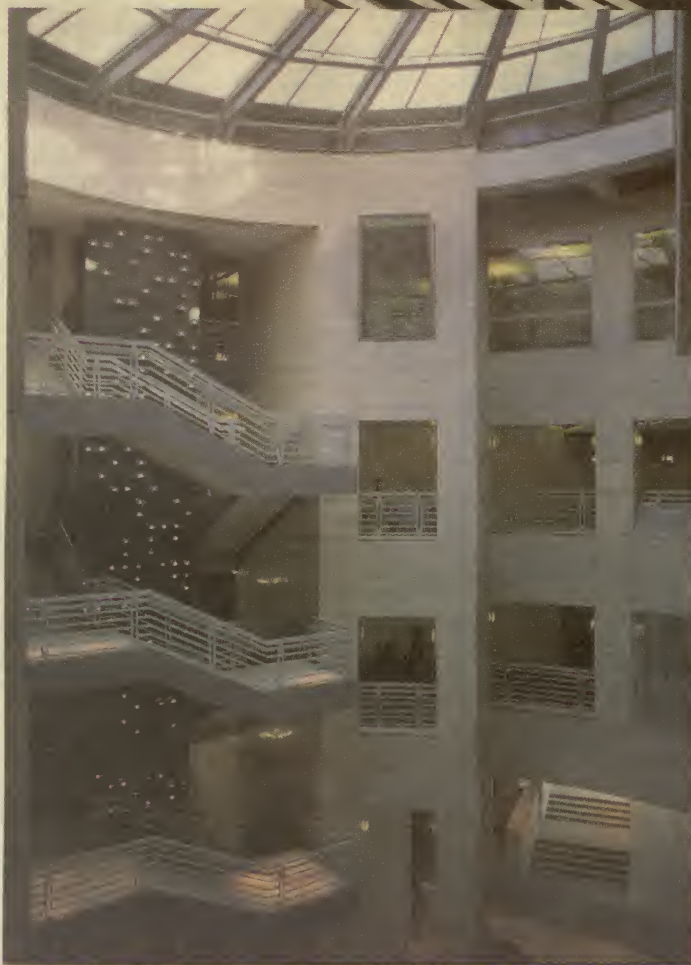
But the building boom in San Francisco isn't just about museums. On

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▲ Gay philanthropist Jim Hormel cuts the lavender ribbon at the dedication ceremony for the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center on Saturday, March 23.

◀ San Francisco's New Main Library opens to the general public on Tuesday, April 16. The turret-like GLC is housed on the third floor (Larkin and Grove streets) and boasts a stunning ceiling mural, *Into the Light*, by Charley Brown and Mark Evans.




Perretti & Park Pictures

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Miranda act



Busby Berkeley would have been proud of the Carmen Miranda look-alike (center) who won the Ultimate Yogurt Hat Contest on Sunday, March 31. The event helped celebrate the opening of the Castro Street store. Reportedly, the losers got their choice of free toppings.

Sailor charged in murder of gay SF man

by Dennis Conkin

Latino newspaper publisher Juan Pifarre, who was brutally beaten to death in his Carolina Street home last week, was a "pretty closeted" gay man with a big heart and "sometimes surly temper," who had a penchant for younger men that bordered on rough or straight trade, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned.

Two gay friends, who spoke only on the condition of anonymity, said that while the *Horizontes* publisher "sometimes drank a little too much and was very opinionated," he was a fun-loving, dynamic, and "very compassionate and unassuming man" whose family knew nothing about his homosexuality.

"He was Argentine. Juan was pretty closeted," one friend told the *B.A.R.*

Pifarre, 53, was also legally married, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned, but a close friend of two decades said the marriage was one of convenience, arranged to resolve Pifarre's troubles with immigration authorities in the early 1980s. He did not live with his wife.

"Juan had to stay in the closet all of his God-damned life in a town like San Francisco because of the morbid Catholicism in the Latino community. It makes me fucking sick," the friend said angrily.

Pifarre spent the evening before he was killed socializing and having cocktails at the friend's Castro District home. The last time the friend saw Pifarre he was leaving in search of a late dinner.

The publisher was found beaten to death two days later after a worried friend who hadn't seen him for "a couple of days" called a neighbor. The neighbor went to check on Pifarre, discovered his front door ajar, and saw blood when she looked inside the apartment.

Police called to the scene dis-

covered Pifarre's naked body in a supine position in the bathroom, with trauma wounds to the head and copious amounts of blood on the face and body. Blood was also spattered on the walls, ceiling, and throughout the bathroom, and on the hallways outside the room, according to the coroner's report.

The suspect

San Francisco homicide inspectors arrested 18-year-old U.S. Navy airman recruit Steven Nary II, who is stationed aboard the nuclear powered aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, without incident in Alameda Friday, March 29 in connection with Pifarre's death. Police say his clothes, including socks and underwear with his name and military identification numbers, were found in a bundle at the crime scene.

Nary, a Biloxi, Mississippi native who last lived in Thousand Oaks, California, is being held on \$2 million bail. He wore a cast around his right arm at his arraignment in Superior Court on Monday, when he entered a plea of not guilty to one count of murder. His also appeared in Superior Court Wednesday, at a hearing to assign a public defender to represent him.

Police believe that Pifarre brought Nary to his home around 3:30 a.m. Sunday, March 24, after the two met at a popular North Beach bar, and that the 6'3" sailor killed 5'9" Pifarre about an hour later.

The downstairs neighbor later told police that at about 4:30 on Sunday, she heard a man's voice shouting "Oh no, oh no," and noises consistent with a struggle. She did not call police.

Worst thing that could happen

Activists in the Latino community, who have long regarded Pifarre's homosexuality as an open secret but a private matter, have publicly decried some aspects of reporting after his death.

They are particularly outraged by a rival publisher's claims that Pifarre had a prior sexual solicitation arrest record. The *B.A.R.* has learned that he was arrested on misdemeanor charges in San Jose more than ten years ago.

"Being in the closet is such a hold-over. This is the worst thing that could happen to him in terms of his pride, to be found like this," a longtime Pifarre friend and colleague told the *B.A.R.*

Regardless of the circumstance of his death, Pifarre "was a very passionate individual with a deep concern for making the Mission a better place for all," said Supervisor Susan Leal.

"He was dedicated to empowering the Mission community through economic development and was very generous in contributing his time to various organizations and task forces in the Mission," Leal said in a press statement. "Juan's vision and leadership will be sorely missed by many in our community."

Pifarre had a Ph.D in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley and was active in local politics and Latino community affairs for more than two decades. In addition to publishing the 20,000-circulation progressive Hispanic weekly, Pifarre worked for the San Jose Redevelopment Agency and had previously served as affirmative action officer for the SF Unified School District and Department of Public Health.

"Juan was a really neat guy," one of his friends remembered. "We'd often go to Cafe Flore and read the Sunday papers and have coffee. One time we went to Esta Noche. That's kind of like the craziest I knew him."

"I think if he was killed after he picked someone up this should be a lesson to everyone about picking people up and bringing them home."

"Know your partners," the friend said. "That's the message to me." ▼

Ryan White \$ buys 3TC while state waits

The Mayor's HIV Planning Council has announced that \$900,000 in Ryan White funding will be made available to buy lamivudine (Epivir, 3TC) for San Francisco people with AIDS.

Effective April 1, funds will be made available to furnish the new

AIDS treatment, which remains out of reach for many patients, until the State of California adds the drug to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) formulary. The money allotted should last for several months.

Applicants do not need to be

enrolled in the ADAP program already to be eligible; the only requirement is that they live in San Francisco.

For more information call 1 (800) 834-2698. ▼

— Mary Ann Swissler

What are the left and right both complaining about? The Center.

by Mary Ann Swissler

The San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Community Center Project has cleared its first public forum and is achieving its goal of bringing out the diversity of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. And how. Right now it's facing criticism from the gay left and the gay right. On the left, progressive gadfly

based on sexual orientation," he said, aligning himself with Republican Presidential candidate Pat Buchanan. Buchanan wrote the forward to Raimondo's 1993 book, *Reclaiming the American Right: The Lost Legacy of the Conservative Movement*.

Raimondo agreed with the anti-gay rhetoric of the far right, calling gay rights "a sham," and laughed off his participation as a cast member in the gay porn

the polls this November, his outspoken criticism of the center is based less on his Libertarian beliefs than on his own political aspirations.

Pipe dream

Longtime activist Petrelis is concerned that, despite assurances made by the center's board that the funding from the city's Redevelopment Agency is a sure thing, money won't even be made available for another year. And, he said, the landlord hasn't even agreed to sell the property, located on the corner of Octavia and Market streets in the Mint Hill neighborhood.

Community Center Project President Scott Shafer told the B.A.R. that the Redevelopment Agency has already identified funds for the center, and that even if plans for the site fall through, which is unlikely, another one will be chosen.

"We're more confident than ever that the city will be a full partner with us," Shafer said, judging from talks as recently as this week. "Every signal we've gotten has been very positive." There isn't a lack of political weight behind the project, he added, including endorsements from the mayor and the entire Board of Supervisors.

"This board is operating right

now on a pipe dream," Petrelis responded. "The center will be built if the Redevelopment Agency comes up with the \$5 million. If they raise X million from the private sector.

"I'll believe it when we have a Gay Community Center."

Gail Goldman, the Project Manager for the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, told the B.A.R. the gay community center is right on schedule – but whose schedule remains to be seen. Goldman confirmed that, as Petrelis stated, it will take another year before the site becomes a Project Area, allowing the Redevelopment Agency to spend its money on the site.

The first step, making the site a

Survey Area, happened last month, said Goldman. Eventually the Redevelopment Agency will need to complete an Environmental Impact Report, a preliminary plan, and a final plan. A city citizens advisory committee covering 5th through Octavia streets, made up of about 35 people, will oversee the process along with the board of directors.

Goldman added, "We certainly have had long discussions with the community and we certainly support it." ▼

The next meeting about the community center will be held at 7 p.m., April 24 at a location to be announced.



Justin Raimondo in *That Boy*: close your eyes and think of Pat.

Michael Petrelis complains that concrete plans and funding for the center are too uncertain, and on the right, gay Republican Congressional candidate Justin Raimondo is lobbying hard to keep any tax dollars from being spent for the center.

Raimondo, who describes himself as right-wing theorist and writer-in-residence at the Center for Libertarian Studies in Burlingame, said he is opposed to the center on principle.

"I just challenge the whole idea of a political movement

movie *That Boy*, a mid-1970s film starring Peter Berlin.

"It's so bizarre that people are trying to blackmail me," he said.

Raimondo, who recently told the *San Francisco Examiner* that Buchanan was "the best thing for America," told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Buchanan's puritanical viewpoint on sex – straight or otherwise – is not important, considering the candidate's foreign policy.

Some observers suspect that with Raimondo facing Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi at

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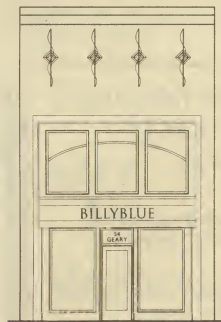
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Closing time



Jane Philomen, Cleland

An unidentified workman changes the locks at the notorious 17th Street (at Douglass) crystal house in the Castro, following the March 27 evictions of the alleged drug dealers there by the Sheriff's Department. Supervisor Susan Leal, who was a pivotal force in the closing of the house, has called for hearings on SF's response to the growing methamphetamine epidemic here, especially among young gay men. "We must acknowledge and confront this menace," said Leal.

Delta delays case to death to avoid paying damages

by Dennis Conkin

A three-member Court of Appeals panel March 25 reversed a damage award to the late Joseph Sullivan, a gay Bay Area man who sued Delta Airlines for HIV discrimination in 1992, on the grounds that he is dead.

After the airline fired Sullivan in 1991, his suit led to revelations that management spied on HIV-positive employees and detailed their attitudes and illnesses in reports compiled and sent to corporate headquarters in Atlanta. Widespread outrage in the gay community prompted a boycott of the airline.

The case also caused a furor when Delta's attorneys from the San Francisco law firm of Bronson, Bronson and McKinnon unsuccessfully tried to have prospective jurors questioned in

writing about their HIV status.

Sullivan was fired in October 1991, after months of AIDS-related leave. He charged that Delta failed to accommodate his disabilities, and received \$275,000 in emotional distress damages — but the jury deadlocked on the HIV discrimination claim and claim for punitive damages, and a new trial was ordered.

Sullivan died last year, and the appeals court ruled because he couldn't receive damages personally, his estate cannot collect punitive damages on his HIV-discrimination claims. The panel based its ruling on a 1992 amendment to state laws, which they said prohibits damages for pain and suffering if the plaintiff has died before the action is decided on appeal.

Delta critics say the airline's attorneys intentionally delayed the case by tying it up in court until Sullivan was dead.

The appeals panel also explicitly said the case could not be refiled.

Attorney Ralph Petersen told the *Bay Area Reporter* the case is also being watched carefully by the attorneys for work-related terminal illnesses such as asbestosis, and said the ruling would adversely impact people who are elderly or who suffer from terminal illness.

Large corporations like Delta and other corporate defendants will delay trials and appeals until the plaintiff is dead in order to prevent the collection of emotional distress and punitive damage awards, he said.

"There's been an outpouring of support from lawyers around the state about the decision," said Petersen. "We will file a motion for reconsideration in Court of Appeal. We will also try to have state legislation enacted to prevent this." ▼

Arrest in Castro hit & run

by Dennis Conkin

Twenty-four-year-old Miguel Garcia was arrested last week by San Francisco police inspector Laurel Hall in connection with a March 23 Castro street hit and run incident.

Garcia faces up to five years in state prison in connection with the incident because he was on felony probation when the collision occurred.

Garcia was driving a pick-up truck in the Castro Street incident, and rammed a motorcycle driven by Anne O'Connell several times. O'Connell fell to the ground and her bike toppled on top of her — and then Garcia ran over her legs and feet.

Hall, who once worked the Castro police beat when she was an officer assigned to Mission Station, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that she did not believe the incident was a hate crime or that

Garcia committed the crime because of O'Connell's lifestyle — but simply panicked and left the area.

Alert eyewitnesses wrote down the license number of Garcia's truck and provided it to police. The vehicle was traced to a South San Francisco firm, and Garcia was identified as the driver by the company that owned the vehicle.

Garcia will be charged with violating the terms of his probation, which carries a longer sentence than felony hit and run charges. ▼

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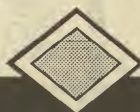
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PUBLISHER

Bob Ross

EDITOR

Mike Salinas

ARTS EDITOR

Chris Culwell

POLITICAL EDITOR

Wayne Friday

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Dennis Conkin
Roberto Friedman
Patrick Hotel
Mary Ann Swissler

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Dianne Aaronson • Rene M. Astudillo
Erin Blackwell • John Bianco
Michael C. Botkin • Jaime Cader
Philip Campbell • Jim Coughenour
M.R. Covino • Marianne Dresser • Beth Elliott
Chad Jones • Robert Julian • John F. Karr
Jeffery Kennedy • Matthew Kennedy
I.A. Kisselman • Karl Bruce Knapper
Cynthia Laird • Daniel Mangin • Mr. Marcus
Jerry Metzger • Gary Morris • Karen Ocam
Hakeem Oseil II • Deborah Peifer • Elissa Perry
Mary Richards • Adrian Roberts • Bob Roehr
John Ross • Doug Seto • Marv Shaw
Robin Sweeney • Rick Thoman
Paul Thoman • Stephanie von Buchau
Dick Walters

ART DIRECTION & DESIGN

Adrian Roberts

AD PRODUCTION & LAYOUT

Jorge Alonso

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jane Philomen Cleland
Darlene/PhotoGraphics
Gregory H. Fleischer
Marc Geller
Rick Gerharter
Phil Migilares, Jr.

EDITORIAL CARTOONIST

Joe Hoover

GENERAL MANAGER

Michael M. Yamashita

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Chip Murray

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

David McBrayer

BAR TALK & GENERAL INFORMATION

Jason Snyder

DISTRIBUTION

Andy McConnell

NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Rivendell Marketing

LEGAL COUNSEL

Thomas E. Horn, Esq.

MEMBER

National Gay Newspaper Guild

United Press International



Bay Area Reporter

395 Ninth Street,
San Francisco, CA 94103
415.861.5019 • 415.861.7230

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Reflections

It hardly seems possible that this publication is 25 years old. I can remember the agonies of the first issue in April of 1971, when Paul Bentley and I spent almost a month putting out the issue—and then realized we would be doing it again in two weeks. We persevered and the paper was published on a regular basis from then on. I bought out Paul's interest a year and a half later when he opened a new bar, the N' Touch, and he didn't have the time to spend on the paper.

The years have seen many changes in the B.A.R., from a small 8 1/2 x 11 magazine, to the same size format with slick covers, to its current tabloid size, and from publishing every two weeks to a weekly newspaper.

It wasn't always easy, and there were times we had to borrow funds to keep afloat, but I am pleased and proud to state that we have never missed a deadline in 25 years. In spite of strikes, newsprint increases, newsprint shortages, and other setbacks, we have always come out on time. A special thanks to all the drivers and others who get the paper distributed each and every week; come rain or shine they persevere and get them distributed in a timely manner, and to the folks at Waller Press—especially to Jane Burke—for keeping us on our toes.

I would be remiss if I didn't say a heartfelt thanks to the many fine advertisers in this paper, for without these folks there would be no newspaper—from Hal Call, our longest running individual advertiser, to the mainstream companies that took years to realize what a viable market we are.

One of the main ingredients in a successful paper is its myriad of writers, of course, and we have been blessed by some of the best in their fields. From columnists

like Sweetlips—from the first issue—to Mr. Marcus soon after, they have stayed the course and also grown with us. There have been so many fine writers over the years that to mention them all would fill two pages of this paper.

From those who wrote for nothing except to get the word out, to today when all receive small stipends, I thank you one and all. And thank you to all the photographers, art directors, and layout people who kept our look up to date and readable over the years. Our newest format is the brainchild of our art director Adrian Roberts; I think it's a bright new look and am sure you will agree.

News editors like Don McLean, George Mendenhall, Paul Lorch, Brian Jones, Ray O'Laughlin, Brett Averill, and Jeff Boswell have all shaped the paper as it grew and left their own individual marks on the B.A.R. We have also had some fine entertainment editors who believed in gay acts, plays, comedians, movies, musicals, and other gay-oriented entertainments that were ignored by the mainstream press. A special thanks to Don McLean, John Karr, Dianne Gregory, Daniel Mangin, and Robert Julian. Their vision has shown the mainstream press learned from their vision that we are here to stay, and they now regularly review the gay genre.

Speaking about our past staff I must also talk about our current staff. It has taken 25 years but I can say that the crew in place is the envy of gay papers anywhere. I am extremely proud to work with some of the finest and most dedicated members of the gay press. From the news editor Mike

Salinas and his associate editors Mary Ann Swissler and Dennis Conkin, to entertainment editor Chris Culwell and his associate editors Roberto Friedman and Patrick Hotel, whose combined efforts are seen each and every week. To Mike Yamashita my general manager and the entire office and sales crew, thanks for a job well done.

To all of my writers, editors, photographers, drivers and columnists, thanks for your ongoing faith and ideas.

That leaves us with the most important part of a newspaper, what makes it or breaks it: you the readers.

So to all of our fine readers, we salute you. You keep us alive. In return, our pledge to you is simply this: to keep you entertained, educated, informed,

and in touch with all our various communities throughout the country and around the world. Let us know if we're succeeding. Your letters, leads on stories, and even your complaints are all seriously valued.

We are especially interested in what you think about our new format, out with this issue. Your comments both good and bad would be appreciated.

I'd like to thank you personally all for your loyalty and constant comments, and for making us the most award-winning gay newspaper in the world today, so I hope you'll join the entire B.A.R. staff at Pleasuredome tonight (Thursday, April 4, from 7 p.m.) to celebrate this milestone with us.

Sincerely,
Bob Ross
Publisher, 25 years.



Editorial

Two lessons for gay immigrants

by Sydney Levy,
International Gay and Lesbian
Human Rights Commission

I am an immigrant. I came here in 1987, at a time when one could not be openly gay and immigrate to this country. Had I applied for my greencard then, I would have been excluded as an "alien afflicted with psychopathic personality, sexual deviation, or mental defect."

I came here in order to study, I stayed in order to work. I met my partner, Mark, an American citizen, in 1990, and we have been together ever since. I applied for my greencard through my workplace, and got it after three and half years—after proving to the government that there was no other American citizen or greencard holder willing and able to take my job.

In the last two and half years I have dedicated many hours to the Asylum Project of the IGLHRC, assisting individuals who are petitioning for asylum because they have been persecuted in their home countries due to their sexual orientation, gender identity, or HIV status worldwide.

My immigration experience taught me a number of lessons, two of which I would like to share with you:

First lesson: Had I been in a heterosexual relationship, Mark and I could have married, and he could have sponsored me for my greencard. That possibility was closed to us because the government chose not to recognize our relationship. Over the course of the years I have met many gay and lesbian couples who find themselves in the same position. Many American citizens and greencard-holders are denied the right to sponsor their loved ones, just because they are engaged in a same-sex relationship. And many immigrants die forced to remain undocumented in this country, if they want to be with their life-partners. THAT IS WRONG!

Second lesson: Had I been HIV-positive



Stop the scapegoating: Queers United Against 187 marched in an immigrant rights picket line March 29 outside the SF offices of Senator Dianne Feinstein.

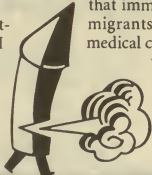
at the time, I could not have obtained my greencard through employment as I did. Why? Because the laws of this country bar most HIV-positive individuals from immigrating into this country, even those that contracted the HIV virus here. We know what the official position is, since we have heard it in so many immigration debates—that immigrants drain resources, that immigrants come here in order to get free medical care. If that were the case, why is it that even healthy HIV-positive immigrants are barred from immigration? Why is it that there is no waiver for those who could have gotten their greencard through employment? I'll tell you why—because this ban is based on AIDS-phobia and immigrant-phobia. The current laws lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy—many HIV-positive immigrant who can work, cannot do so legally—they are denied the ability to earn a living, and the possibility to get health insurance through their workplace, and they are forced to rely on public assistance. THAT IS WRONG!

I call upon each gay man and lesbian,

each bisexual, each transgendered person, each person with HIV and AIDS—to support the aims of the hunger strikers and to take a stand against immigrant-bashing. Queer people and people with HIV are everywhere, including immigrant communities.

We don't come here asking for welfare. We don't come here hoping to get a free ride. Some of us come here in order to be with our families, families of origin and families of choice. Some of us come here to work hard and improve our lives. Some of us come here in order to escape persecution in our countries.

Denying us welfare, denying us healthcare, denying us access to an education will not deter us. It will only further divide our communities and our families. It will create an underclass of people who have no rights. It will strengthen an environment of prejudice and distrust, of latent and overt racism, of selective enforcement of the law according to the color of your skin. We know that when immigrant-bashing flourishes, racism cannot be far behind. We will not be scapegoated. We will stand firm against immigrant-bashing, against racism, and against homophobia. Enough is enough! ▼



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

ACT UP/SF's wrong approach

As a PWA participant at the recent San Francisco Consortium meeting at Davies Medical Center, I would like to clarify the impression given by ACT UP/SF that they were there to conduct a challenging dialogue about the scientific issues related to the use of AIDS treatment drugs. It was clear to me and the other participants that ACT UP/SF was not there to engage in challenging dialogue but rather to disrupt this meeting in order to prevent us from hearing information that could be useful in AIDS treatment.

Like many other PWAs, I have learned that there is no best single approach or treatment protocol for combating the virus. If we are to survive this epidemic, we need to have information on all possible strategies that can help us in this fight until a cure is found. By trying to deprive us of this information in the mistaken notion that they have discovered the "right" answer to AIDS treatment, ACT UP/SF insults our intelligence and denies our ability to decide for ourselves which treatment approach is best for us.

We already have one Pat Buchanan in this country who wants to impose on us his version of the "right" way to conduct our lives. We don't need another Pat Buchanan-type in the gay community telling us what we should believe and do under the guise of trying to save us from ourselves. What we do need is access to as much information as possible to help us decide which viable treatment options to choose in our fight for survival.

Jim Botsko
San Francisco

Drugs in the 'hood

Mere printed words here cannot truly express the pleasure I have received all these years reading the *Bay Area Reporter* from its inception to the latest issue. I always appreciate the truth in reporting and the editorials and support of certain laws, customs and progressive thinking.

What amuses me greatly was the latest article "Eviction Planned for Castro Meth House." If I am correct, there are gay people who are opposed to and complaining about their neighbors' dalliances with "recreational drugs" and want them out of their "home." This sounds very unfair to me, for the B.A.R. and its minions have always politically altered our speech and even our thought processes by calling drug addicts "substance abusers" and illegal and dangerous drugs "recreational drugs." For years the staff of the B.A.R. and readers have always tried to minimize alcoholism, tobacco use, drug use with all sorts of terms, and God forbid anyone should even think to say a word against sex addicts.

We have a strict rent control law in San Francisco, inspired by the late Harvey Milk and his followers, which altered the California eviction law for San Francisco by using the term "just cause." For years the B.A.R. and local gay political junkies portrayed property owners as those who would talk on the phone, file their nails and eat bon bons while trying hard to figure out whom to evict next. Laws have been passed in our fair city that month-to-month tenants earn a lifetime tenancy while at the same time may move at will with or without notice. Renters who take in a roommate find that they can be stuck for a long time with a miserable occupant and have to go through a formal eviction process. The bad often win out in these cases and the good give up and are driven away.

And so it is with drug abusers and possibly manufacturers in the 17th St. case. This is what the gay community has sown and is reaping even though some spoilsports are dissatisfied the results. Readers who are smug should remember my words when they try to get rid of somebody in a share rental. At least in divorce court one can sue for separate maintenance and quarters, but with our tenant protection laws, it might really be "Till Death do we part."

Again, thank you for reporting this story accurately, and I guess I'll have to control my glee until I read a story where a heterosexual male or female sues a gay bar or business for equal opportunity and a share of those lucrative salaries and tips that we so anxiously and happily give to our own kind.

Andrew Betancourt
San Francisco

Substandard housing

I'd like to address members of the gay/lesbian community and their supporters who own apartment buildings in S.F. Some of my friends and myself have been fortunate enough to get on government subsidized housing programs, and the programs use Section 8 as the vehicle for renting. After being turned away by several real estate offices, I was informed that the majority of owners don't want to rent to Section 8 tenants, as it involves more paperwork and housing inspection.

Unfortunately, the "slumlords" end up getting a great deal. They get a year's lease, going market rates, and a guarantee from the government to take care of two months' rent damage, beyond that of the tenant's

deposit.

I've ended up in a Jr. 1-bedroom that is dark and cold, even on sunny days. After moving in, I discovered a rat problem at night, and it took many calls to authorize to get the owner to resolve the problem. A close friend died during the process of trying to get out of his lease due to an extraordinary cockroach infestation in his apartment, i.e. they were so bold they would jump onto his dinner plate sometimes. It turned out the owner of my building owned his also!

Authorities such as the Housing Authority and Catholic Charities were contacted with no results. These slumlords are making a huge profit, even on substandard housing. I ask you, if you are a gay/lesbian or supportive apartment owner, to contact Catholic Charities or the organization CHIPS, if you would be willing to help get more of the gay/lesbian community into your apartments. By doing so you will be helping many People With AIDS live in dignity and safety. You will also get good profits, too. My apartment is getting the owner almost \$800/month, and I have friends that are living in larger studio apartments for a lot less money.

Brian Rowell
San Francisco

Done preachin', started meddlin'

Most of the time, I enjoy the GLAAD column and am grateful for much of the information. Then there are times when, like the old lady in the Amen Corner of the rural church, I find myself muttering, "Now he's done preachin' and started meddlin'." Reference the March 7, 1996 column.

It seems to me that coming out is anything but the simple decision and action that some of us would like it to be. Coming out, for me, destroyed my life. It has taken me over twenty years to begin to get to where I have a sense that it's still safe for me to be alive. It happened by accident and because I was tired of lying. I had a very responsible position in the state government of another state, was involved in professional circles at the highest level nationally, and was naive enough to think that made me safe. The year was 1972. After reading Randy Shilt's *Conduct Unbecoming* I now know why the roof caved in, why no one would talk to me, or answer my letters and phone calls.

I knew absolutely nothing about gay "community." I found a Gay Hotline listed in a local phone directory and called for help. The person who finally answered said it had been discontinued, that it had been run by a local gay church but was no longer. He then asked how old I was. I was then fifty. I could hear the interest go out of his voice when I told him. He didn't even invite me to his church and had some vague suggestions about an older men's group.

It wasn't until 10 years later that I found gay 12-step meetings and a sense of community and support. By that time everything that had constituted my life was gone. I had gotten involved in a cult because they promised to cure me. I lost my home, my car, my retirement, my family and my friends.

I found the March 7 column distressing because it makes accusations of terrible things done by GLAAD National without citing instances. On the basis of the old "screw me once, shame on you, screw me twice, shame on me," I think I will approach reading the column with considerable reservation in the future, and I certainly would not recommend it to someone in the closet as a reason why they should come out.

Coming out is not as simple as walking through a door. It is a decision that affects the total life of the person doing it. If we want to find a reason why more people do not come out, maybe we ought to look at ourselves and how we treat each other, as well as how we treat people who do come out and hope for support after having done it. Too many times, not only is the support not there, it's like arriving in a survival jungle with nervous cats all around us ready to strike out at each other.

Kielwasser was upset with the movie *Cruising*. Yet that movie gave me hope that I was not alone when there were no gay people in sight who would do that. Lily Tomlin seems to be the favorite target just now, yet I remember watching a TV documentary in which she talked quite frankly with her lover about their working relationship and their life together. It made me feel that there was more to being gay than the Castro and Polk Street meat markets.

Does Mr. Kielwasser have control issues? I'm an adult. Give me the facts and let me judge for myself how they impact my life. I don't need a columnist to tell me what I ought to think about people with whom he is upset. Let me know what has upset him and let me judge for myself whether I agree with him and want to do something about it.

Now take Beth Elliott. There's a grown-up columnist, one I read regularly because what she has to say helps me with my on-going coming out.

Robert A. Batten
Geyserville, CA

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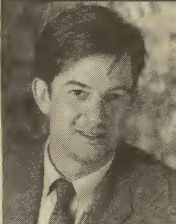
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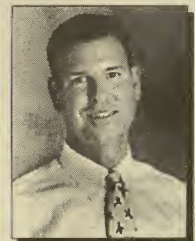
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Hobnobbing homophobe

Perhaps gay political supporters of Willie Brown who claim the mayor is a friend of the gay community can explain why he is hobnobbing with arch-homophobe and PWA-basher Eddie Murphy. It pains me to think my city government is cooperating with this vicious character in using San Francisco as a backdrop for one of his lousy flicks. What's next? Appreciation dinners for Mel Gibson, Lou Sheldon and the U.S. Olympic Committee?

Douglas Montgomery
San Francisco

Motorcycle muffler?

At the risk of sounding politically incorrect, I have a suggestion for the SF Pride Committee. Please limit the number of the Womyn's Motorcycle Contingent (a.k.a. Dykes on Bikes). Last year I was honored to march in the parade with the AIDS Foundation, carrying the sign for the AIDS Walk. After three hours of standing on Van Ness and McAllister, we finally started to move and turned onto Market. I couldn't understand what the hold-up was, because the walk down Market was relatively quick. When I got home, I rewound my videotape of the parade and saw how long it took the motorcycles to go through. To top it all off, they're boring. After seeing 100+ motorcycles go by with people on them, whether male or female, they all look the same. The idea of the parade is to show diversity. But the people I have spoken to have said they were bored and left by the time I was able to get onto Market Street with the SFAF. I know how "P.C." this city is, and I know there will probably some grief about the suggestion. But I hope the committee limits the number of bikes so people can see the rest of the parade and not leave out of sheer boredom.

Name withheld by request
San Francisco

Supé appointments

In the mad rush of the local progressive press to endorse Carole Migden and Kevin Shelley for State Assembly and Angela Alioto for State Senate, has anyone stopped to consider that sending these three fine folks to Sacramento will create three vacancies on the Board of Supervisors for Willie Brown to fill?

Considering His Royal Highness the Lord Mayor's first rather lackluster appointment to the Board (an obvious, and rather cynical payback to Brown's beloved cash cow Nancy Pelosi), and further considering the downright idiocy of His Hiney's other proposals in his first two months as mayor (one, let's hire knife-wielding crack-sucking ex-gang members to police MUNI buses; two, let's cut AIDS and other healthcare and spend those desperately short city funds to operate a "mayor's residence" on Treasure Island; three, let's turn our city parks into Camp Agnos Redux; et cetera ad nauseum), how can you so gleefully support creating three vacancies for Willie Brown to fill? I know that the three Supes at issue here would, because of term limits, be off the Board soon anyway—but their replacements should be elected by the citizens of San Francisco, not appointed by a mayor of questionable intelligence who is nationally infamous for political machine-oiling and cronyism! The Board of Supervisors will, after this election, become little more than a rubber stamp for Willie Brown's indescribably stupid personal agenda.

I would like to hope I'm wrong about the consequences of this election. But I've been in San Francisco too long to expect anything to be done right at City Hall. I have hoped, though, for more thoughtful analysis from the local progressive press.

Hank Trout
San Francisco

Transphobia in the Datebook

[The following letter was sent to Bill German, San Francisco Chronicle.]

I was hurt and angered on reading Sam Whiting's blatantly mean-spirited and cruel description of me in the March 3rd Datebook's "Dance Club Scene."

As a performer in SF I have worked very hard to build a reputation as a legitimate performing artist, singing at such venues as Great American Music Hall, The Fillmore, Slim's, Cafe Du Nord, Club 181, DNA, Paradise Lounge, etc. In 1994 The Veronica Klaus Heart and Soul Revue won a Whammy Award for "Best Blues/R&B."

As a transgendered person one learns to ignore occasional ignorance and verbal abuse, however, seeing such abuse printed in a major publication, I feel not only humiliated but personally challenged. Therefore under Civil Code Section 48a I demand that you correct the following false statements: 1. That I am a "drag queen"—the term "drag queen," while not in itself an insult, is incorrect. This title is not an umbrella term to be used to describe all transgendered people, and as a journalist, this is something Mr. Whiting must research if he is ignorant on the subject. 2. That I procured one breast implant—this statement is offensive if not misogynistic. 3. That I display this one breast "proudly"—besides being impossible since it

does not exist, the freakish implications of this statement are extremely offensive. The sum of these and other remarks is an incredibly derogatory attack on me solely because of my gender status and is tantamount to racial slurs and homophobic epithets.

This incident occurring in a major newspaper in San Francisco (which happens to be one of the very few cities to include transgender status as a recognized minority in its nondiscrimination clause) is unacceptable and requires action.

On contacting Mr. Whiting about his cruel and transphobic (unfounded fear and/or hatred of transgendered people) remarks and having been met with only additional arrogance and insensitivity, I am forced to demand a retraction from the Chronicle of this entire description.

Veronica Klaus
San Francisco

Cytolin therapy

I am surprised and dismayed by all the recent fuss in your pages about CytoDyn and its immune-based therapy, Cytolin. *Treatment Issues* makes the pursuit of non-FDA approved treatments sound irrational—uh, in case no one has noticed, those of us with life-threatening viruses floating around our bodies think it's pretty rational these days to do so. While it's true certain immunologists don't agree with the theory behind Cytolin, may I point out that those same immunologists have failed to deliver therapies that do work.

As an individual who has been lucky enough to receive Cytolin infusions I can say that several dedicated doctors who volunteer their time have done their best to deliver a therapy that has made a marked reduction in my viral load. While I have not seen a jump in CD4 count, the virtual elimination of live virus makes Cytolin a more than worthwhile risk for me.

Jeffrey Weisman
San Francisco

Cytolin controversy, cont.

Re: David Gilden's letter on *Treatment Issues* coverage of Cytolin:

The purpose of our ad was to warn readers that *Treatment Issues* did not adhere to the rules of professional journalism, which include the use of informed sources, the identification of sources, and the corroboration of facts, etc. David Gilden, who was not mentioned in our ad, has now made a personal issue of the problem we identified. This is unfortunate. But it's now fair to point out that it took Gilden about two months, which was after our ad ran, before he finally complied with our request that he call one of the doctors his writer had quoted without attribution. That doctor, who is independent of our company, told Gilden that what *Treatment Issues* told their readers about his experience was completely incorrect and harmful to patients and the people trying to help the community. We think it is in everyone's best interest for community-based publications like *Treatment Issues* to play by the rules.

Gilden says his reporting is "dispassionate and objective." But the people who have seen his letter may well reserve that judgment for themselves.

Tom Bianchi
Vice President, Public Affairs
CytoDyn of New Mexico, Inc.

The Paper Chase lounge

The hundreds of patients who have demonstrated the long-term safety of Cytolin ("What's Up With Cytolin," February 22) will recognize the recent letter by Dave Pasquarelli ("Grave Concerns on Cytolin," March 7) as a politically motivated attack on a rival group of activists. Nonetheless, Pasquarelli's letter inadvertently calls attention to an important problem. So much money is being spent on AIDS research that it's become impossible for doctors to keep up with the rapidly expanding knowledge being generated by scientists. This makes AIDS research a self-defeating proposition. What good is research if the results just sit in journals collecting dust in the library stacks?

We're pleased to announce a solution to this problem, thanks to the cooperation of PaperChase, the premiere literature service offered by Harvard Medical School's Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. Computer users who visit our web site will be able to link to PaperChase and automatically retrieve a collection of 20 current papers from the peer-review journals. These papers describe in detail how adhesion molecules work in mammalian immune systems, and especially in humans infected with HIV. We hope Drs. McGrath, McCune and colleagues will use this opportunity to bring themselves up to date on modern immunology. Our web site should be available in early April at <http://www.cytodyn.com>. If you want to keep up to date on all aspects of HIV research, computer users can subscribe directly to PaperChase by calling (800) 722-2075.

Allen D. Allen
President and Director of Research
CytoDyn of New Mexico, Inc.

POLITICS

Pat's out; Perot's in

by Wayne Friday

With the San Diego Republican National Convention still nearly four months away, you can look for Pat Buchanan to make lots of noise for the TV cameras most of the summer, but come August he will make a splash with his convention speech and then cave in by declaring how urgent it is to deny Bill Clinton re-election. Yes, pugnacious Pat, a good Republican soldier after all, will climb aboard the Bob Dole wagon to "help" the GOP ticket (all with an eye toward the year 2000, of course). Buchanan will return to his \$300,000-a-year job at CNN after the convention and bide his time.

Ross Perot? Now that's a horse — or mule — of a different color. Yes, there will be a third party ticket in the general election, and you can bet the farm and the first-born that Perot will be the candidate of his Reform Party. Will he once again be a factor in the outcome of the presidential election? Maybe. The Republicans are certainly worried.

Constantly dismissing all questions about another run with a wave of the hand and his standard "this is not about me, it's about the country" response, Perot has cleverly waited until late September — after both the Democratic and Republican conventions — to hold his Reform Party confab. If he knows nothing else about politics, he knows how to get the most publicity bang for his buck.

Holding his party's convention last could give him a much-needed boost, though most political analysts, both Republican and Democratic, feel he's unlikely to match his 1992 performance (19 percent of the vote). Since the common wisdom is that the Texas billionaire would more likely attract Republican votes (as he did in 1992), it is generally assumed that his candidacy would mostly help Bill Clinton.

Meanwhile, those close to retired General Colin Powell are saying that the drumbeat for the popular Powell to share the Dole ticket only gets louder. Polls continue to show that only with Powell as his running mate can Bob Dole beat Bill Clinton.

Speaking of boosts, as the leader of the host country, President Clinton gets to formally open the Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta this July. The Republicans are already crying "politics"; however, only a fool would pass up this opportunity. This event is carried to two-thirds of the world's population via television.

My political spies in Los Angeles tell me that Mayor Dick Riordan, a renegade Republican, will endorse President Clinton for re-election. Riordan, up for re-election himself next year, expects to face liberal state Senator Tom Hayden and a number of other well-known Democrats, but the mayor remains popular with his constituents.

Election aftertakes

Only 38.5 percent of California's registered voters bothered to vote in the primary



Liz is back in fighting form.

last week. The plan to move the primary date from June to March in the hopes of giving the state more national political clout was a total flop! How about January, governor?

Two of the very biggest local winners last Tuesday were Carole Migden and Kevin McCarthy. Migden won her Assembly seat with no opposition, and McCarthy took on a Wilson-appointed Superior Court judge and kicked butt.

McCarthy's whopping win (70-30 percent) has put the fear of God into the smug, complacent judges in this town who are used to routinely being

re-elected every six years. Yes, indeed, there were some worried faces at the Hall of Justice after Kevin's impressive victory.

Respected lesbian attorney Kay Tsenin and gay attorney Matthew Rothschild (subject of that scorching piece in *SF Weekly*) will face off in November for a Municipal Court judgeship. Both are longtime activists in our community, so let's keep this race clean, folks!

State voters made a huge mistake by passing Prop. 198, the "open primary" scheme. Both the Democratic and Republican parties will take this to court, where it will likely be overturned.

San Diego's pro-gay Republican mayor, Susan Golding, won re-election last week with a smashing 78 percent of the vote.

Longtime political hack Lou Papan took a big step toward regaining political power by winning the 19th Assembly District's Demo nomination. I thought Quentin Kopp put this guy away for good.

Incidentally, Quentin, just what are your future political plans? Mayor Willie Brown recently referred to Kopp at a dinner as "California's next attorney general," but one of Quentin's backers told me this week that Brown "could be a bit worried that Quentin might be after the mayor's job."

Several carloads of friends and supporters cheered loudly as Assemblywoman Carole Migden

took her oath of office in Sacramento Thursday, March 28 (even though the Republicans delayed things a bit). Supervisors Sue Bierman and Kevin Shelley were also in attendance, though Supes Tom Ammiano and Susan Leal were conspicuous by their absence.

The Central Conference of American Rabbis, meeting last week in Philadelphia and representing nearly 2,000 rabbis of the liberal Reform movement, voted to support civil marriages and to oppose governmental attempts to bar such unions between gays and lesbians (though they're not going to encourage their rabbis to perform such ceremonies).

However, right here in our own backyard, Santa Clara County, a group of 29 evangelical Christian churches have banded together to fight a proposal by the Santa Clara Board of Supervisors that would give official recognition in that county to relationships between gay or lesbian couples.

Think Bob Dole is too old to be president? Well, the aged Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, as bigoted and homophobic as ever, is running for another senate term and would be 100 if he lived to complete it.

Elizabeth Taylor, 64, and still America's favorite film star, says she has fully recuperated from a recent serious illness and is "back in the thick of the fight" against AIDS. Taylor, though still affiliated with AmFAR, has her own Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation, which she runs (with help from others) from an office in her home. The actress, credited with raising tens of millions to fight AIDS, says concerning her foundation: "I make the decisions. I know where every single cent goes. I do all the fundraising, and I trust myself." She continues, "It isn't that I mistrust other groups, but when an organization becomes too large, too many salaries are paid, too much is spent on envelopes, stationery and other expenses. Here, I pay all of these expenses out of my pocket." The Academy Award-winning Taylor says she is eager to get on the fundraising trail again, noting that "we can't give up this fight. In my heart I know we will someday conquer this vicious disease."

Police commissioner Pat Norman and longtime partner Karen, taking part in last week's historic same-sex wedding ceremony, were featured, photo and all, in *USA Today*. Norman is frequently mentioned as being on Da Mayor's "short list" to take former Supe Carole Migden's seat.

Friends and supporters of former Mayor Frank Jordan will hold a reception for him "to celebrate his 37 years of distinguished service to the City" (and help pay off his lingering campaign debt) on April 10 at the Jordan home on Fillmore Street, 6-9 p.m. (\$75 single; \$125 couple). Call 986-6183 or 931-4164 for info.

The Quote of the Week is from that most enlightened of religious potentates, the (far) Right Rev. Lou Sheldon, commenting on same-sex marriages: "It's impossible for homosexuals to truly bond. Marriage wouldn't stop their wild and crazy sex, and besides, the body parts just don't fit." Apparently Lou believes the purpose of marriage is to put a halt to "wild and crazy sex." Pity Mrs. Lou, whose fondest hopes must have been dashed at the altar. ▼



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Find the condoms



As part of the Castro Merchants AIDS Awareness Week, On Your Dot on Upper Market features a leak-proof plastic-wrapped bed in its front window, and many condoms put to ingenious uses are prominent in the display. How many can you spot?

I told you, Thelma

by Beth Elliott

I told you, Thelma — don't ask me about Lesbian Nation. That's my standard reply to anyone too curious about the down side of the '70s for my comfort. But this being the 25th anniversary issue of the *Bay Area Reporter*, I suppose I should lower my guard somewhat. After all, in the spring of 1971, I was being welcomed into The City's budding post-Stonewall lesbian community, and having some wonderful adventures with happy and caring women.

Community resources were incredibly sparse, and yet the atmosphere was somewhat like Prague after the Soviet Union dissolved. Most of us had come out with an image of lesbianism as a tawdry, depressing demimonde of self-loathing, substance-abusing losers. What a joy to find women like ourselves — upbeat, spunky and most of all *real*. And diverse — downtown pink collar workers, hippies, bar denizens, suburban mothers, even a few leatherdies. We realized we could create our own scene outside the bars — our community would be whatever we could dream.

Sadly, the idea of a "women's community" soon became a political football, with pressure in the '70s to turn lesbianism into a strictly political — and doctrinaire feminist — category. And pressure in the '80s to turn it into a strictly sexual — and doctrinaire "cosexual" — category. But damn, our vision of women together was beautiful, and we kept it going, despite the politics, for quite a while.

Memory lane

I remember setting up a Democratic club with Jim Foster and naming it after Alice B. Toklas to maintain a counterculture reference (you know, the brownies?). Gay men backing McGovern while we endorsed Shirley Chisholm. Daughters of Bilitis parties with a liquor table in the kitchen and the potheads on the back porch. Seeing an N Judah "torpedo" car (now those F Line vintage streetcars on Market!) emerge from the fog to take Lyndall McCowan and me from the Irving Street Home for Wayward Girls to the Surf Theatre to review *Cries and Whispers* for *Sisters* just before deadline — and walking out too stunned to write.

Addressing 50,000 people at an anti-war rally at the Polo Grounds — and smoking bud with Elvin Bishop and Jo Baker backstage before their band played. Getting an icy reception in Oakland dyke bars while canvassing for sodomy law repeal. Winning sodomy law repeal. Driving down to LA for a 1971 "Gay Women's" conference (changed to "Lesbian" in '73) and seeing the Lesbian Mothers' Union formed. Going back for a weekend in Hermosa Beach with that UCLA grad student from the canyons.

And reading a radical new book, *The First Sex*, about how women invented agriculture and civilization after the last ice age. Great googly moogly!

Of course, the joys of being a twenty-something with a lesbian scene in which to hang out and have adventures are not '70s-specific. You can see the proof at Red Dora's or Luna Sea — anywhere young lesbians heed Saroyan's exhortation, "In the time of your life, live!"

But note this well: it's not just for nostalgia that I'm risking coming off as some tie-dyed leftover. The California "sapphedelic" tradition continues to be more influential — and vital — than you might guess. Consider members of the Luscious Jackson band, in the "Nothin' But a She Thang" video, speaking of how research into ancient Goddess-oriented societies has reassured them that female subordination is neither natural nor inevitable. That's right out of Kristie Neslen's 1979 book *The Origin*, which pulled the data together into a larger picture.

Or consider early Goddess theorists using as source material Jungian Erich Neumann's *The Great Mother and The Origins and History of Consciousness*. This linked historical data to the concept of female psychology as both individuated and inherently transpersonal. There's your neopagan ecofeminism. There, too, is mainstream publisher HarperCollins' recent book detailing parallels between feminism and Tibetan Buddhism in terms of orientation toward transformation of consciousness.

Consider too, in this vein, postmodern feminist Julia Kristeva's statement that "Rather than being stranded outside

meaning, women are the very space and possibility of representation and meaning." This sounds suspiciously like the notion of the female as the ground of being, and thus seeing women being in the world as simultaneously individual and universal. That's right in the pocket with both the post-modern feminist notion (Helene Cixous, Judith Butler) of knowledge through the body and

our vision of lesbian sexuality being as physically grounded as you can get while transcending time and space.

Meditative state

All this came to mind recently in the mini-labyrinth on the dirt road above the main quarry at Sibley

Sapphistication

Volcanic Preserve. Someone had placed, in the very center, a pair of those Chinese metal balls that chime as you roll them around in your hand. I picked them up and played with them, focusing on finding the hand motions that would cause the most melodious chiming. After a while, I noticed I had been so focused on the music of the little spheres that I had wandered into quite the meditative state: losing all awareness of intent and process, of anything but the motion that produced the sweetest sounds.

It occurred to me that this was the perfect metaphor for how some of us in the early '70s envisioned our "women's community" of lesbians. By focusing on coming together in a way that would facilitate lots of fun times in a loving, supportive environment of our own (female-specific) design, we just might be able to slip into a shared state of consciousness in which we could know what being female was really all about. It was less about a direct overthrow of the patriarchy than about a state of mind in which the patriarchy kind of got lost in the shuffle (if I may paraphrase Wavy Gravy).

That's what I mean by sapphedic. Dyke separatism, and political lesbians, and the pressure to identify as homosexual first and female second (and even the Sonia Johnson cult) notwithstanding, the magic's still around. It's right at your fingertips, if you look at it right. Who wants to come out and play? ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

National Child Abuse Prevention Month... from a gay perspective

by Nadine Greiner, Ph.D.

For the past ten years, April has been proclaimed Child Abuse Prevention Month on a national, state, and local level to raise the public's awareness of the causes, treatment, and prevention of child abuse.

Building public awareness requires challenging the denial often associated with this massive social problem. Throughout the decades, the psychological community and larger society have flipped from scandalous revelations to defensive outrage, and from concern to denial. For instance, Freud, when faced with the prevalence of child abuse, reformed his version of reality. He retreated into denial about this social problem by asserting that his patients' memories were in fact fantasies, thereby pathologizing the survivors themselves. The most recent backlash against uncovering the true prevalence of child abuse can be witnessed in the controversy about repressed memories of childhood abuse.

So what?

As lesbians and gay men, we might ask ourselves what all the talk of child abuse has to do with us. Many of us don't have children and have little contact with others' children. Those of us who do have kids have gone to great lengths to become or to stay parents, and would never dream of abusing them.

The answer is that we were children once, and statistics suggest that one out of three reading this article suffered at least one form of abuse in our formative years (Finkelhor, 1987). Buried deeper beneath denial is the fact that one out of three survivors become perpetrators themselves (Geller and Strauss, 1988). By affecting every third person, child abuse affects the whole lesbian and gay community.

What is child abuse?

Child abuse can be defined as sexual, physical, and emotional maltreatment inflicted on a child which may compromise that child's physical and/or emotional development.

Current research indicates that 38% of women and 10% of men in San Francisco were sexually victimized before age 18 (Finkelhor). Other research suggests that 15% to 22% of adults in North America were sexually abused as children. Because of the social isolation and vulnerability that lesbian and gay youth often experience, it is possible that statistics in this group are higher.

Other types of abuse

Because American society obsessively portrays sex as at once sublime and dirty, secret and scandalous (with extra attention paid to the taboo of homosexuality), the spotlight has been aimed at sexual abuse. Other types of abuse are, nevertheless, as common and scarring.

Surviving physical and emo-

tional child abuse can also have devastating effects on the grown survivor's concept of self, self-esteem, relationships, use of substances, moods, achievements, work, satisfaction in life, and, ultimately, role in the community.

Although much of the psychological literature and media has singled out episodic abuse over continuous abuse or neglect, research has shown that the latter can have more severe consequences on an individual's mental health than the former.

Abused and queer: double whammy

Shame is often a powerful emotion both during an abusive childhood, and then throughout adulthood. The underlying dynamic is the internalization of the abusing caregiver. In other words, abused children most often feel responsible for the abuse, believing that had they been stronger, prettier, better, or smarter, the abuse would not have occurred. Holding the caregiver responsible is almost impossible for children to do because their sense, knowledge, and interpretation of the world come from their caregivers, and their lives wholly depend on them. This dynamic results in deep-rooted, intense shame — a feeling of being rotten or bad to the core. Unfortunately, being lesbian or gay often produces similar feelings, adding up to a double whammy of shame.

Shame thrives on secrecy. Secrecy thrives on shame. Breaking that cycle can be especially difficult the first few times. That is why it is important to tell somebody safe and trustworthy. You can choose a professional who specializes in child abuse, maybe a recovering survivor, perhaps a close friend or lover who has supported you when you shared vulnerable feelings.

Timing is a consideration for everybody who has something weighty to share. Make sure you give yourself enough of it — no dumping on your way out the door! In the larger scheme, once you become aware that you were abused, you will probably feel the desire to verbalize and release.

How you tell is important. Many survivors think they must have full film-like memory first, or have it all figured out or rehearsed first. You don't. Tell it like it is for you at that moment. You are telling for you, not for the other person. Choose comfortable surroundings, take breaks if you need to.

A note of caution: Some people might not be receptive to listening to your experience as a survivor. Maybe your sharing breaks their denial. Maybe they don't want to listen. Maybe they have other reasons. Don't let this discourage you, others will gladly listen and support you in your recovery.

What to do if loved ones tell you they were abused

The amount of time and energy you spend supporting a sur-

vivor depends on how close you are to them. For instance, you may be more willing to support a close friend or lover than a casual work acquaintance or distant relative. Ultimately, if conducted well, sharing at such a personal level can enrich and deepen a relationship.

1. Listen with an open heart. Be attentive without being overwhelming. Maintain eye contact, reassure them they're safe now and you are willing to listen to them. Listen. Ask if they need a hug, space, hold hands, etc. — let them decide. Listen some more, with support and compassion.

2. Most people have emotional responses to child abuse, especially of a loved one (discomfort, shared pain, protection). However, if what the survivors are sharing triggers overwhelming responses within you to the extent that you cannot listen right then, say just that. Make a date to talk later, or for them to talk with somebody else.

3. Acknowledge the survivors' memories, pain, abuse, and the effects they deem it to have on their adulthood. Accept their feelings towards their abusers, their families, themselves without judgment. Listen. Offer validation and encouragement.

4. If survivors are destructive or self-abusive, be sure to try to protect them.

5. Support them in accessing the help they require to recover from the abuse. Help can come from therapists, self-help groups, workshops, books, movies, expressive arts, a network of friends, and other recovering survivors. Be sure to take care of yourself: being the only supporter is a difficult and unnecessary burden.

A complete approach to recovery if you were abused

Much has been written, reported, scandalized, and conjectured about child abuse. Many different therapies have been tried (if the therapist and client were able to acknowledge the abuse). Because the area is relatively newly discussed, however, little has been researched about the most effective therapy. The most impressive research concludes that a complete approach is the best: psychotherapy and self-help groups.

What to do if you are a lesbian, gay, or questioning minor, and suspect you are being abused

You are not alone. There is help for you. Call LYRIC (Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center) at (415) 863-3636 or 1-800-246-PRIDE if outside San Francisco. ▼

Nadine Greiner, Ph.D. maintains a private practice consisting of adults and children in San Francisco.

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Homophobia in focus

by Al Kielwasser

The public discussion regarding child welfare and on-line media use has focused almost exclusively on one theme—sex. Politicians and software producers alike have harped on the threats, imagined or real, of “cyber porn.” This debate has left little room for other concerns.

Recently, for example, the Center for Media Education released a report detailing the problematic ways in which the children of cyberspace are targeted by advertisers and marketers. Yet software manufacturers are hardly rushing to the fore with programs to facilitate the automatic blocking of product pitches.

Also excluded from much of the official debate has been any serious analysis of the proliferation of so-called “Christian comput-

ing.” Often right-wing, fundamentalist ventures, these “Christian” online services are venues for the sexist and homophobic jeremiads commonly found in their print and broadcast counterparts.

James Dobson’s “Focus on the Family” forum, distributed through America Online (AOL), is one of many new pulpits for fundamentalist hate. Dobson, a professional homophobe, uses the forum less as a vehicle for discussion than a site for selling. His “ministry” is pitched in a collection of “resources”—pamphlets, books, magazines and tapes—which explain why homosexuality is evil and beating children is good.

Under the guise of “Youth Culture Resources,” many of this material is either about or aimed at children and young adults. Official “Focus” articles condemn

MTV “and its long-standing promotion of the gay lifestyle” (Jeff Hooten, “Breaking the Culture’s Grip”) or popular bands for “spewing pro-homosexual lyrics” (Bob Smithouser, “When Teens’ Tolerance Turns to Compromise”). Other alarmist “resources” provide guidelines for keeping “pro-homosexual” books out of libraries and combating the “homosexual agenda invading schools nationwide.”

In the “non-official”—or public “bulletin board”—sections of the forum, the talk is just as cheap. Many of the postings are homophobic rants. For example, on the subject of “School Homo/Glorifying,” one “Focus” fan (TradisValu@aol.com) explains—at length—how “homosexuals have their sights on winning the hearts, minds and little bodies of your children.”

Such content is surely “protected speech,” and AOL users can post replies if they care to venture into the “Focus” forum. What is not illegal, however, may still be harmful—and it is possible to condemn without censoring.

Conspicuously missing from all the talk about “parental controls” and “Internet safety” is any condemnation of homophobia and its promotion amongst children. The silence is deafening.

Encourage politicians, software companies, computer trade magazines and on-line service

providers to exercise a little moral leadership—by publicly condemning homophobia and the homophobes who prey, with impunity, on our children. Perhaps AOL president Steve Case should consider the subject for one of his regular “Letters” to AOL members. Contact: Steve Case, President, America Online, Inc., 8619 Westwood Center Drive, Vienna, VA 22182, e-mail SteveCase@aol.com.



GLAAD

In addition to on-line media, “Focus on the Family” produces international print and broadcast materials that reach millions each week. Contact: Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, CO 80995, tel. 719-531-5181 or 800-232-6459.

The Center for Media Education is located at 1511 K Street NW, Suite 518, Washington, DC 20008, tel. 202-628-2620, fax 202-628-2554, e-mail cme@access.digex.net.

Tabloids, TV, and teens

The April 2 issue of *Soap Opera Magazine*—a popular supermarket tabloid—carries a feature article, “Teens on the Edge,” which consists of a roundtable discussion amongst the young stars of ABC’s daily drama *All My Children*.

As the magazine announces: “AMC’s hot young stars are pushing the show to new limits by dealing with today’s tough issues—unwanted pregnancies, drugs, AIDS and gay pride. Here, they talk about the pressures of their storylines and the messages they send to teenage fans.”

At one point in the discussion, Ben Jorgensen (who plays a gay teen, Kevin, on *AMC*) remarks: “At first I thought my character was extremely overwrought. ... Then I started to read the fan mail.” He notes that *AMC*’s portrayal of “vile homophobes screaming loudly” is sadly realistic. “It’s a horrible thing to have to be ashamed—or even to have to be scared of others’ reactions,” Jorgensen says, recalling the real-life coming out experiences of a personal friend.

In response to the question—“Has the gay storyline helped to break stereotypes?”—another *AMC* actor, Brian Gaskill (Bobby) got the article’s last word. Gaskill replied: “Our storyline isn’t doing it alone. But to be a part of the battle, to say, ‘It’s not a bad thing,’ that’s one step forward.”

Compliments to *Soap Opera Magazine*, for considerate coverage of a considerable storyline. Contact: Richard Kaplan, Editor, *Soap Opera Magazine*, 660 White Plains Road, Tarrytown NY 10591.

The Party isn’t over

The FOX network has announced that *Party of Five* will be renewed for a third season and 22 new episodes. Though critically-acclaimed, the drama series has been less successful in the ratings department—even by FOX standards.

Recently, Mitchell Anderson—the actor who plays *Party of Five*’s recurring gay character (Ross)—revealed that he, too, is gay. This real-life coming out will certainly fan the fires of an otherwise waning campaign against the series, orchestrated by the conservative American Family Association (AFA).

From the start, the AFA has encouraged its members to protest the show’s “homosexual violin teacher.” The series is listed on the AFA’s current roster of 11 prime-time programs that “bombard viewers with pro-homosexual TV.”

The AFA has specifically targeted Procter & Gamble, urging the company to cease buying airtime during *Party of Five* broadcasts. According to the AFA, Procter & Gamble has been the show’s “top advertiser” since last September. Procter & Gamble has also been cited by the AFA for being the top sponsor of several other “pro-homosexual” series, including *The Crew* (FOX), *Friends* (NBC), and *Sisters* (NBC).

Anti-AFA letters and calls can be directed to John E. Pepper, Chair, Procter & Gamble, P.O. Box 599, Cincinnati OH 45201, tel. 513-983-1100 or 800-435-9254, fax 513-945-9155; FOX Broadcasting, P.O. Box 900, Beverly Hills CA 90213, tel. 310-277-2211, e-mail foxnet@delphi.com.

To report any defamatory or affirmative media coverage, call the 24-hour “MediAlert Hotline” (415-861-4588), or write to: Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco CA 94103, tel. 415-861-2244, fax 415-861-4893, e-mail glaad@sba@aol.com. World Wide Web: <http://www.ccnet.com/gaytrek/glaad.html>.

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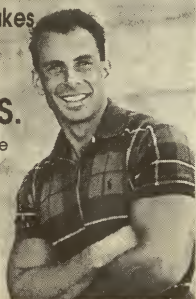


PHOTO: STEVEN ANDERSON

Easter

Holy Week

April 4, 7 pm
Maundy Thursday

April 5, Noon & 7 pm
Good Friday

April 6, 7 pm
Saturday
Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday

April 7

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- *Good Friday, April 5
3:00 pm Commemoration of Jesus' Passion & Death
- *Holy Saturday, April 6
8:00 pm Great Vigil of Easter
- *Easter Sunday, April 7
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♦ Good Friday Stations of the Cross - 12:15 pm
Good Friday Office - 2:45 pm
Solemn Liturgy - 7:00 pm
♦ Liturgy of the Lord's Burial - 10:00 am Saturday
Easter Vigil - 9:00 pm followed by Festal Meal
♦ Easter Day - Mass 8:00 am
Solemn Mass with Procession - 10:00 am

Bethany United Methodist Church

1268 Sanchez at Clipper ♦ 647-8393
The Rev. Karen Oliveto, Pastor
♦ Maundy Thursday - 7:00 pm
♦ Good Friday - 7:00 pm
♦ Easter Services at 9:00 & 11:00 am
Community Potluck Brunch at 12:15 pm
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Dolores Street Baptist Church

938 Valencia Street at Liberty ♦ 826-2641
The Rev. Douglas M. Donley, Pastor
♦ Sunrise Service - 7:00 am
at the Dolores Street Community Garden
Corner of 15th and Dolores
Breakfast served after the service.
♦ Worship Celebration - 10:00 am
938 Valencia Street at Liberty

First Congregational Church

Post & Mason Streets ♦ 392-7461
The Rev. Jim Lawer, Pastor
♦ Maundy Thursday - 6:00 pm
♦ Good Friday - 12 Noon
♦ Easter Sunday - 11:00 am

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6555 Geary at 30th ♦ 751-8108
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♦ Easter Vigil - 9:00 pm Saturday
♦ Easter Day - 10:00 am

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Metropolitan Community Church

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♦ Good Friday Prayer Service 1:00 pm
Worship 7:00 pm
♦ Easter Sunday - Liturgical Service 9:00 am
Worship - 10:30 am (Including Children's Church)
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Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church

455 Fair Oaks Street- Noe Valley ♦ 824-5142
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100 Diamond at 18th in the Castro ♦ 863-6259
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♦ Mass of the Lord's Supper-7:30 pm Thursday
♦ Good Friday - 12 noon and 7:30 pm
♦ Easter Vigil - 7:30 pm Saturday
♦ Easter Day - Mass 8:00 & 10:00 am

St. Francis Lutheran Church

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Michael Hiller, and Phyllis Zillhart
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Foot Washing & Holy Communion - 7:30pm
♦ Good Friday; Lessons & Prayers-12:10 pm
Choir & Chamber Orchestra presenting
Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* - 7:30 pm
♦ Holy Saturday
Baking the Paschal Bread & Prayers - 10:00 am
The Great Vigil of Easter - 9:00 pm
♦ Easter Day - Services at 8:30 & 11:00 am

Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist

1661 15th Street at Julian ♦ 861-1436
The Rev. David L. Norgard, Pastor
♦ Maundy Thursday - 7:00 pm
♦ Good Friday Holy Communion - 7:00 pm
♦ Easter Day Festival Holy Eucharist - 11:00 am

St. John's United Church of Christ

501 Laguna Honda Blvd at Woodside ♦ 731-9333
The Rev. Roger Ridgway, Pastor;
Larry Halpern, Music; Carolyn Collier, Seminarian
♦ Maundy Thursday
Light Dinner & Communion 6:30pm
Phone in your reservation
♦ Easter Celebration of the Resurrection - 10:00 am

A member of the San Francisco Organizing Project
"Home of the Enchanted Christian"

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

1111 O'Farrell Street ♦ 928-7770
Pastors: Jack Lundin, Stanley Olson,
Kelly Denton-Borhaug, Frank Leonard
♦ Maundy Thursday
Footwashing & Eucharist-7:30pm
♦ Good Friday; Stations of the Cross - 12:15 pm
"Passion According to St. John" - 7:30 pm
♦ Easter Vigil - 9:00 pm Saturday
♦ Easter Day - 11:00 am

Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church

1329 Seventh Ave (Irving & Judah) ♦ 664-2543
The Revs. Jeffrey Gains & Kimberly Murman,
Co-Pastors
♦ Easter Day
Service of the Resurrection - 10:30 am
Celebration of Communion & Hallelujah Chorus
Potluck Easter Brunch Social Following
Everyone is Welcome!

East Bay

Diablo Valley

Metropolitan Community Church

1543 Sunnyvale Ave, Walnut Creek ♦ 510-283-2238
♦ Easter Sunrise Service - 7:00 am
In the gazebo at Civic Park, Walnut Creek
♦ Easter Day - 1:00 pm
Walnut Creek United Methodist Church Chapel

First Baptist Church of Berkeley

2345 Channing Way ♦ 510-848-5838
The Rev. Esther Hargis, Pastor
♦ Maundy Thursday; Supper - 6:30 pm
Tenebrae Service - 7:30 pm
♦ Easter Day - 10:00 am

Welcoming and Affirming the Gay, Lesbian,
Bisexual Community

First Congregational Church, Alameda

1912 Central Avenue ♦ 510-522-6012
♦ Easter Festival Service of Worship - 10:30 am

New Life Metropolitan Community Church

1823 Ninth Street (at Hearst), Berkeley ♦ 510-843-9355
The Rev. Barry Wichmann, Pastor
♦ Easter Day - 12:30 pm

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Trinity United Methodist Church of Berkeley

2362 Bancroft Way (at Dana) ♦ 510-548-4716
The Rev. Kim Smith, Pastor
♦ Maundy Thursday
Prayer & Communion - 7:00 pm
♦ Good Friday Music Service - 7:00 pm
♦ Easter Day
Courtyard Garden Service of Celebration - 8:00 am
Continental Breakfast - 9:00 am
Festival of Easter Worship - 10:00 am

San Mateo County

Congregational Church of Belmont

751 Alameda de las Pulgas ♦ 593-4547
The Rev. Wendy Taylor, Pastor
♦ Maundy Thursday Tenebrae - 7:30 pm
♦ Easter Family Service - 10:30 am
Bagel Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt after Church
Wheelchair accessible.

This advertisement is produced by
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a consortium of churches celebrating
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For more information contact coordinator:

The Rev. Roger Ridgway
501 Laguna Honda Blvd
San Francisco 94127
731-9333.

Town Meeting

HIV Negative: What do we want from our community?

Panel and Audience Discussion
Moderated by Phil Julian, Editor, *Frontiers*

Metropolitan Community Church
150 Eureka Street

Monday, April 15, 7:30 pm

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4/6 Holy Saturday Prayer Service - 8:00pm.

Prayer Vigil - 9:00 - Midnight.

4/7 Easter Sunday - Celebration with
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Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY, April 5
Stations of the Cross - 12:00 noon
The Lord's Passion - 12:30 & 7:30 PM

HOLY SATURDAY, April 6
The Easter Vigil - 7:30 PM

EASTER SUNDAY, April 7
Masses - 8:00 & 10:00 AM

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME - remember to set
your clock one hour ahead on Saturday night!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Carole Migden says hello to Sacramento

From remarks delivered
by Assemblywoman
Carole Migden at her
Sacramento swearing-in
ceremony, March 29,
1996

Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends and family, I stand before you today deeply honored by the opportunity to serve the people of San Francisco and California in this vital new capacity.

There is no work more worthy than that of public service - the pursuit of a life dedicated to improving the lives of many. I am humbled by the opportunity to make a contribution and to help make government work better for people.

I will be a strong advocate of San Francisco's values and interests. I will fight efforts to curtail a woman's right to choose, and those which would erode environmental protection. I will advocate for better schools and expansion of AIDS funding and the State's role in caring for all people in need.

Despite differences we may have about policy or approaches, I hope you'll find me easy to work with. I'm interested in meeting all of you and learning about your districts, and working together for the benefit of all California.

Permit me, Mr. Speaker to in-



Carole Migden.

roduce my guests.

My mother and father, Nathan and Simone Migden, who are here from New York and are more than a little surprised by who their little girl grew up to be;

I thank them for putting up with their strong-willed daughter and instilling in me a strong work ethic;

My loving partner, Cris Arguedas, is a ballast in my life - without her I would not be standing here today ... intact.

My next guest is no stranger to these chambers, he is my friend, and I will endeavor to approximate the outstanding leadership he provided San Francisco and California as a speaker of this body - the mayor of my magnificent city, The Honorable Willie

Brown, Jr.

I would like to also introduce two friends from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Board President Kevin Shelley and Supervisor Sue Bierman. A good friend and a fine legislator, Kevin is joining us next session, representing the 12th AD.

Sue Bierman has been a close personal friend for almost 20 years, and San Francisco has greatly benefited by her outstanding leadership.

And then there are the folks upstairs - my friends and supporters who span my 26 years in California. I am indescribably grateful to each person here today - each one of you made a profound contribution to getting me here.

I want to thank my friend Justice Kline for officiating and for his distinguished presence both here and in the California judiciary.

I want to thank John Burton for his tough love approach to me and all things he cares about.

I want to thank Sheila Kuehl, my sister, for being the first to break the barrier and doing such an exemplary job.

I want to thank Mr. Katz, Mr. Bustamonte, the members of the Democratic Caucus and all members for your warm welcome.

And finally Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you, your staff, and the office of the Clerk, for extending great hospitality and courtesy to me - I will try to make it last.

Thank you very much. ▼

Gerry Studds says good- bye to Washington

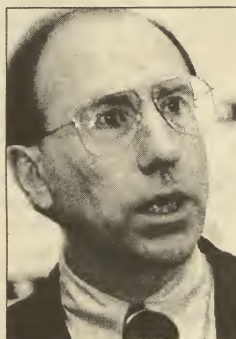
by U.S. Congressman
Gerry Studds

It's been an eventful couple of months. Since announcing this would be my last term in Congress I've been asked many times how I felt. Only half in jest I recounted the temptation to run through the halls of Congress shouting "Free at last!" The real answer is that my emotions are powerful - and mixed.

There's genuine happiness, and more than a little relief, as my partner Dean and I begin pondering the next chapter in our lives. Yet there is also a deep sadness as we bring to a close this remarkable and improbable journey we've traveled the last quarter century.

When I announced my decision last fall, some political pundits ascribed my decision to the results of the last election, although it is unclear to me why we ought to be dissatisfied with 69 percent of the 1994 vote.

It's true that I have less than unbridled enthusiasm for the wrecking ball of the 104th Congress, and that I am as deeply troubled by the direction we're heading today as 1970, when I had the then-original idea of challenging an entrenched incumbent. But the basis for my decision is personal, not political.



Rep. Gerry Studds

After 12 terms in the House, it is simply time for me to move on. To everything, as the Biblical verse goes, there is a season, a time to plant and a time to harvest.

It is now time for me to chart a new course: by no means to retire, but to find new endeavors, both public and private, that will allow more than an occasional weekend or evening to catch up on things neglected for a quarter century. I never anticipated serving 24 years, and it's probably divulging no great secret to admit that I do not thrive on what some consider indispensable parts of the job: I am not by nature a particularly gregarious person. I get annoyed by

frequent interruptions. I get tired of hearing myself talk.

And there are already far too many people in Washington who confuse themselves with the monuments.

I came very close to making this decision in 1992. Had it not been for the prospect of a young presidential candidate named Clinton, working with a Democratic Congress and a new Committee Chairman named Studds, I would have said, "Thanks for a wonderful ride," and headed home then.

But that constellation seemed so well-aligned - and the opportunity to make a real difference so clear - Dean and I committed ourselves to yet another all-out campaign and, if successful, to work through President Clinton's first term.

Suffice it to say that a great deal has changed since then, and little of it is good.

The special interests I first ran against are the ones the Republican leadership has put back in charge. Bills are drafted by the very industries they are supposed to regulate. Jesse Helms has been transformed from a fringe caricature to a committee chairman. And Bob Dornan had little trouble last month passing a law that requires the military to auto-

COMMUNITY NEWS

Ramsdell to be remembered on Easter

by Mary Ann Swissler

The many lives and recent death of political activist and photojournalist Sheldon (Shelly) Ramsdell will be remembered during memorials held in his honor beginning with an Easter Sunday brunch at his home from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The 60-year-old Ramsdell lost his lengthy battle with AIDS on Monday, March 25 at his home in San Francisco, but not before leaving his distinctive mark on the world, in pictures, words and deeds. He was born on August 31, 1935. After receiving an honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy in 1958, Ramsdell went on to co-found the Vietnam Veterans Against the War in 1967, which included a one-week encampment on the Washington Mall in 1971 to protest the war.

Later he would arm himself with this same brand of street activism in the war on AIDS. After moving to San Francisco in 1984, Ramsdell became an increasingly vocal AIDS activist and member of ACT UP.

Ramsdell's substantial photography portfolio reflected his eclectic

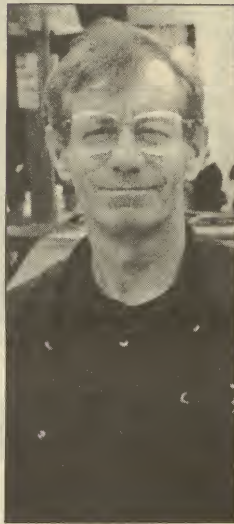
interests and included shots of Abby Hoffman, some of Barbra Streisand's first publicity photos, Bette Midler, William S. Burroughs, and Joel Gray. His photographs were published in national magazines as well as exhibited at the New York Public Theater.

Friends will be arranging a posthumous show of his photos, including his photos of J. Edgar Hoover's gravesite, which Ramsdell decorated with pink triangles and lingerie during the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian/Gay Rights.

Shelly's diverse circle of friends will be included in memorials that will be held on April 15 after 8 p.m. at the Twin Peaks Tavern, located at the corners of Market, Castro and 17th streets, and on April 28 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Cannabis Buyers Club, located at 1444 Market St.

Ramsdell is also survived by his parents Herman and Louise Ramsdell of Olgonquit, Maine; a sister, Shirley Suglia of Shelton, Connecticut; and brothers Donald Ramsdell of Naples, Florida, and Glenn Ramsdell of Wells, Maine.

In lieu of flowers, tax-deductible contributions may be



Shelly Ramsdell

made in Shelly's name to The Restitution Project, 584 Castro Street #514, San Francisco CA 94114, a new organization dedicated to acknowledging the contribution of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender servicemembers.

Call Linda Albond at 552-3480 for more information. ▼

Thom Bean to be honored at memorial reading

by Hakeem Oseni II

A memorial reading will be held at A Different Light Bookstore this Monday, April 8 in honor of Thom Bean, a gay writer and activist who died of a heart attack in his San Francisco home last month.

Neighbors discovered Bean's body on March 19. He was 51 at the time of his death.

"I think it's tragic that Thom died so suddenly," Tommi Avicoli Mecca of A Different Light told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "He was a major literary voice in this town, and he will be missed."

Bean, a popular columnist for the *Bay Times*, was a member of the National Poetry Association and served as director of the OUT/LOOK Foundation Board, and as a co-facilitator of Racism and Homophobia in the Media with San Francisco lesbian activist

Pat Norman.

He had been a social worker at the Department of Social Services and was a past president of SEIU Local 535 and Vice-Chair of the United Minorities Against Discrimination; a founding member of Black and White Men Together; a Third World Co-Chair of the San Francisco Gay Pride Parade Committee; president of the San Francisco Girth & Mirth Club, and interim co-chair with Carole Migden of the Coalition for Human Rights.

His work has been published in several gay periodicals and anthologies, notably *Black and White Men*, *The Road Before Us*, and *Milking Black Bull*.

Born in Nashville, Tennessee, Bean had lived in San Francisco for the past 16 years. He is survived by his mother Rostella Bean, his sisters Cheryl and Phyllis, and two nephews and four nieces. ▼

Gerry Studds

◀ page 14

matically discharge all service-members who are HIV-positive, throwing more than 1,000 qualified, dedicated men and women out of work and threatening their medical benefits.

Constructive exchanges on the House floor are a thing of the past: several members in fact have recently gotten into shoving matches. Attack, distortion, and demagoguery are now the tools of the trade.

When confronted each day by life's crises, there are always two basic responses—despair or determination. Despair sometimes seems more logical, but determination is far more productive and far better for the soul.

Over the years, we have resisted the temptation to despair and instead, despite the odds, fought hard for those things we believe in. And let me assure you, I have every intention of continuing to do so on our full plate of issues this year.

When I see assaults on education, child nutrition and Medicaid; plans to revive Star Wars, build B-2 bombers, and legalize corporate raids on employee pension funds; and "reforms" that increase taxes on people with annual incomes under \$30,000, you can be assured that my voice will be as strong as ever.

I fully expect our paths to continue to cross in the days and months ahead. After all, I am not retiring (I'm not even shy!).

Thanks again for all you've done. Please stay in touch and keep the faith. ▼

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invites you to join us for Worship & Communion Sundays at 10 a.m. Visit with us and meet our congregation.

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If you find an undiscovered defect, discuss the matter with the inspector. Depending on the situation, the responsibility for remedying the problem may rest with you, the sellers, and/or the inspector.

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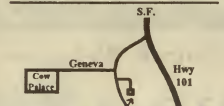
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Less is more: This simple but tasteful Castro Station number is only \$12.

It's T time!

by Mary Ann Swisler

Every picture tells a story, and that goes for clothes as well.

Judging from the small number of T-shirts on sale in community bars and clubs in the South of Market area, up Market Street, and in the Castro District, the lesbians, gays, and the transgender crowd in this town don't exactly wear their culture on their sleeves—or chests.

Still, some recognize that it isn't enough for some people to know where they've going: they need to know where they've been, and T-shirts are perfect for that.

Here, then, are some places where the proprietors may not give you the shirts off their backs, but they will sell you one from behind the bar:

It's no surprise that the most elaborate, scene-stealing bar clothing can be found at two of the town's biggest leather bars, the Lone Star Saloon and The San Francisco Eagle, both located on Harrison Street in the South of Market area. The Lone Star's was the only one in our survey to have an embroidered logo, which is

available in short sleeve tees for \$22, or \$18 for the silk-screen version. Baseball caps are sold for \$22. The elaborate, Western-style design is also available on an embroidered black wool jacket with black suede sleeves, for \$265. The Lone Star is located at 1354 Harrison St., and can be reached by phone at 863-9999.

Down the street The SF Eagle offers a simpler charcoal sketched leatherman (no women—yet) silk-screened onto

a short-sleeved T-shirt. A no-frills style that features a small circle silk-screened just above the nipple is also sold. Available in black and white, they are \$15, as are Eagle baseball caps. The Eagle

behind. To its considerable credit, Harvey's also sells a restaurant union T-shirt for The Lesbian/Gay Labor Alliance. Call 431-4278.

The Castro Station, located at 456 Castro, offers a basic black and red shirt for \$12.

More colorful are T-shirts sold by The Patio Cafe at 531 Castro Street, for \$9.95, in royal blue, teal, purple, and peach. They also sell wine-colored sweat-shirts for \$15.95. Call 621-4640.

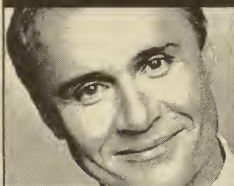
Best use of geometric shape and best disguised phallic symbol goes to the designers of the My Place T-shirt. They are located at

Out For Business



Parrot pees: The Patio Cafe offers a more flamboyant design in a variety of colors.

Scott Fisher



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is located at 398 12th Street. Their phone number is 626-0880.

Harvey's at 18th and Castro is like a Hard Rock Cafe of the gay and lesbian set, named for Harvey Milk. Its namesake said you gotta give gay people hope to come out; for now we've got lots of visibility—and lots of logo-emblazoned coffee mugs, milk-white polo shirts, and wristwatches. Keychains and calendars can't be far

1225 Folsom Street, or you can call them at 863-2329.

For those looking to wear a badge of honor of another kind, the Castro Country Club, a clean and sober club, has shirts and baseball caps for sale. Tees (in burgundy, teal, royal blue and heather) sell for \$15. Tank tops go for \$8, and baseball caps for \$15. The Castro Country Club is located at 4058 18th Street, and can be reached at 552-6102. ▼

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Permit Appeals Board gains lesbian member

by Mary Ann Swissler

San Francisco family law attorney Carole S. Cullum, appointed by Mayor Willie Brown to the San Francisco Permit Appeals Board, says that although planning issues that come before the board are quite a bit different from her area of the law, she has worked extensively in the past on planning issues.

Plus, she says, "I'm kind of an interesting person to be on it, because I bring a different aspect of the law." Cullum is a partner in the oldest lesbian-owned law practice in San Francisco, Cullum and Sena at 45 Polk Street.

Before Cullum moved to San Francisco in 1981, she was director of Ocean Park Projects in Santa Monica, west of Los

Angeles. She worked on a variety of community projects affecting the long-term planning of that city, including law enforcement issues, stop signs, and parks. She has also worked on alternative dispute resolution.

After she moved to the Bernal

sion is that it really reflects the diversity of the city," she says. "We're part of the city, we own property, we're developers, we pay taxes."

Cullum originally applied for the San Francisco Planning Commission, but when she was offered a position on the Board of

The commission "really reflects the diversity of the city."

Heights section of San Francisco in 1981, where she still lives, Cullum attended the New College of California Law School, and was graduated in 1984.

She acknowledged that Brown's appointments of open gays and lesbians are important. "What's nice about our commis-

Permit Appeals Board she took it. "For me this was a much better position, now that I look at it," she says.

She got her first taste of controversy with the Sanchez Hilltop development, which she voted against. It won approval of the Permit Appeals Board anyway. ▼



Attorney Carole S. Cullum: "I'm kind of an interesting person to be on it."

Rick Gerhart

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Low turnout defeats Yeager

by Marv. Shaw

State Assembly candidate Ken Yeager of San Jose attributes his defeat at securing the Democratic nomination for the 23rd District race to low voter turnout. In talking with the B.A.R. directly after the election last week, Yeager cited several factors that should have gotten him the party's nomination: endorsement from many quarters, including the *San Jose Mercury News*; ample financial support from a variety of sources, including the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund; a legion of volunteers; his record on the Board of Trustees of the San Jose/Evergreen Community College District; and his position as a political science professor at San Jose State University.

It is Yeager's view that victor

Mike Honda's name recognition was a factor that brought Honda 8,916 votes to his own 6,307. "It is also possible that being the older candidate, Mike Honda seemed to be the safer one," he added.

Yeager discounted the likelihood that homophobic feeling was a significant influence, pointing out that although David Cortese stated in his recent campaign literature that gay Yeager was "a danger to the family" and that some of the media spread that allegation further, Cortese himself finished a weak third with only 4,204 votes.

Asked about his future plans, Yeager responded at once with his intention to run for re-election to the community college Board of Trustees.

Finally, Yeager expressed disappointment that gay media support in San Jose was not forthcoming. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Roeca on Fire, learning ropes

by Mary Ann Swisler

The newest member of the five-member San Francisco Fire Commission, Russell Roeca, doesn't have any experi-

ence fighting fires. Nor, he told the *Bay Area Reporter*, does he have much knowledge of the intricacies of fire safety and emergency procedures overseen by the Fire Commission.

Instead, the 42-year-old open-

ly gay attorney said, he is bringing the commission his expertise in diversity issues, which he previously worked on in conjunction with the San Francisco Bar Association.

The city's fire department is under court order to expand its affirmative action hiring program, a mandate that Roeca said he looks forward to making a reality. The 1987 Consent Decree, which was extended for an additional year last year by the courts,

will further ensure that affirmative action goals are met.

More importantly, Roeca said he was confident of current Fire Chief Robert Demmons's ability and willingness to set a progressive tone for the department. And that, he said, will result in the hiring of more people of color, women, and gay and lesbian people. "I invite anyone who wants to talk about the Fire Commission to talk to me," said Roeca.

Since his appointment in January, Roeca said, he has been getting acclimated and getting to know the San Francisco Fire Department. "I'm learning. I've got reams of materials to read on a daily basis to come up to speed," he told the *B.A.R.*

The Fire Commission approves the budget, reviews bond measures, handles discipline measures and the 911 system,

page 20 ►



Commissioner Russell Roeca: "The commissions set the tone for the departments, and our perspectives should be there."

Shawn O'Hearn seeks supe seat

by Mary Ann Swisler

Relatively few openly gay men have run for seats on their city councils or boards of supervisors in California, but Shawn O'Hearn is already a veteran, now in his second race at the age of 32.

O'Hearn, who has announced his bid for a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in the race this November, ran for a similar seat in San Diego before



Shawn O'Hearn.

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NEW OUTPATIENT STUDY: NANDROLONE DECANOATE for weight loss

Researchers at UCSF/San Francisco General Hospital who pioneered the use of growth hormone for AIDS wasting are now seeking volunteers for a study to determine whether an anabolic steroid called nandrolone decanoate can also help reverse weight loss and increase lean tissue in people with HIV infection.

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HIV-positive people benefit from health insurance reform

by Bob Roehr

The U.S. House of Representatives passed major health care reform legislation Thursday, March 28 before adjourning for Easter recess. Its principle elements affect "portability" and preexisting conditions, and the availability of private health insurance. The Senate will vote on similar legislation in two weeks, on April 18.

Approximately half of all PWAs eventually end up on Medicaid in the last stages of the disease. But the vast majority of people living with HIV are on the job throughout most of the course of their infection. They and people with other serious medical conditions often fear losing their current job, and feel locked into not looking for another, simply to maintain existing health insurance coverage. This legislation would greatly reduce those fears.

The core of the House legislation was developed as a bipartisan measure in the Senate as the Kassebaum-Kennedy bill. It stops the insurance industry practice of denying coverage to people with preexisting illness, though it allows some limits of coverage for the first 12 months a policy is in force. It also prohibits companies from dropping the policies of people when they become sick, so long as they continue to pay their premiums.

House Republicans, generally over the opposition of Democrats, voted to add a series of other provisions to the bill. Those include creation of tax-free medical savings accounts; limiting malpractice awards for pain and suffering (not actual damages) to no more than \$250,000; and regulatory relief for small businesses that pool their resources to purchase health insurance coverage.

Viatical settlements and accelerated benefits pay-outs would become tax exempt under a Republican amendment. Those provisions had been included as part of another bill that President Clinton vetoed last year.

Christine Lubinski, deputy director of the AIDS Action Council, called the bill "a mixed bag." While supporting the core provisions, she said, "We strongly object to a laundry list of other ill-conceived positions that assuage special interest groups while adversely affecting healthcare consumers."

Troy Petenbrink, spokesman for the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA), criticized the Republicans who "took a modest insurance reform bill and threw in all this stuff trying to revamp the whole program. They should have just left it alone."

He took heart in Newt Gingrich's speech at the end of the debate where the speaker said he wanted a bill the president could sign, and thus was willing to compromise many of the positions

just adopted. "We think that is good," Petenbrink said.

Alexander Robinson called the core provisions of the legislation "very helpful" to people who are employed. The AIDS lobbyist for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) was concerned that some of the administration simplification provisions might threaten individual privacy. He feared that too many amendments might kill the entire bill.

New York financial adviser Per Larson calls the viatical amendment "very much in sync with the spirit of the central thrust of the bill, which is to offer direct assistance to people facing serious illness." He believes it stands a good chance of becoming law, but he is concerned that other Republican provisions are tempting AIDS organizations to oppose the entire House measure and "throw the baby out with the bath."

Tom McCormack, entitlements expert and author of *The AIDS Benefits Handbook*, sees the provision for medical savings accounts as "undermining the long-term financial viability of Medicare and Medicaid." But he believes that technical "tweaking" of the financial formulas would greatly reduce that risk.

Petenbrink believes one of the greatest strengths of these reforms is that "if we can keep people on private insurance and off the public assistance programs, that helps everyone." ▼

Rabbis support gay marriages

United Press International

Reform rabbis attending a national convention in Philadelphia voted Thursday, March 28 to support marriages for gays and lesbians — as long as the weddings do not include religious ceremonies.

A resolution approved at the Central Conference of American Rabbis makes the Reform branch the first of the three major Jewish branches to endorse same-sex civil marriages.

The resolution urges the 1,750

rabbis who are members of the Central Conference to support the rights of gay and lesbian couples to marry and have their marriages recognized by law.

It cites "our Jewish commitment to the fundamental principle that we are all created in the divine image."

About 42 percent of the nation's 5.8 million Jews identify themselves as Reform, 38 percent as Conservative, and seven percent as Orthodox, according to a 1990 survey by the Council of Jewish Federations.

The Central Conference voted

six years ago to accept gay and lesbian rabbis.

Rabbi Elliot Stevens, secretary of the Central Conference, said that while he would not perform wedding ceremonies between Jews and non-Jews, he would marry homosexual Jewish couples if asked to do so.

"I believe fully in the religious equality of all Jews," he said.

Officials at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati told United Press International the resolution is not binding on the nation's reform rabbis. ▼

O'Hearn

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he moved here two years ago. That bid was unsuccessful, he told the *Bay Area Reporter*, because many of the signatures on his nominating petitions were disallowed, but he said he learned from the experience. Now, he said, he knows more about running a true grassroots campaign.

O'Hearn, who works for a Belmont publisher, said he isn't bothered by his current lack of name recognition among the electorate or lack of political alliances. He doesn't belong to any of San Francisco's influential gay and lesbian political groups, and doesn't plan to join, even though he just

tossed his hat into the ring.

"I found it very much a hindrance in terms of aligning myself too closely [with the clubs]," he said, "even though I believe in their mission statements."

Currently, O'Hearn is attending planning sessions for the future of the Castro, and has already worked on a few political campaigns.

In his own campaign, "I'm going to try as best as I can to run as a proud, openly gay man," O'Hearn said, "but not be pigeonholed into thinking that's the only issue I'm running on."

"People try and box you into thinking you're too gay — or not gay enough — and credibility gets based solely on how open someone is." ▼

Roeca

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oversees the potential consolidation of certain Emergency Medical Services with the Fire Department. Although he is not its first openly gay or lesbian appointee, Roeca said it still makes an important statement to appoint members of the community.

"I just think it's very important from a policy standpoint. The commissions set the tone for the departments and our perspectives should be there," he said. ▼

Fungal molecule shows promise in mice with AIDS

by Mike Salinas

Researchers from the University of Kentucky revealed Monday, April 1 that a molecule extracted from the cell wall of a fungal organism increases immune function and survival in mice infected with the mouse equivalent of AIDS.

MMS1, as the peptidoglycan molecule is called, is currently being developed by International Gene Group, a subsidiary of IGG International. The company released the preclinical data at the 1996 Keystone Symposia on Immunopathogenesis of HIV Infection in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

Scientists evaluated the effica-

cy of MMS1 in mice with induced infections of murine immunodeficiency disease (MAIDS), plus three control groups. All of the mice in the infected test group receiving MMS1 survived the 24-week period after infection; all of the infected control mice who did not get the substance died within 16-24 weeks of infection.

In addition to the dramatically increased survival rate, MMS1 decreased the percentage of spleen cells infected with the virus. The compound was well tolerated by all the treated mice, with no observed signs of toxicity in blood or bone marrow.

"I am extremely excited by the immune responses we observed in our experiments with MMS1," said principal investigator Vincent

S. Gallicchio, Ph.D., associate dean for research at the University of Kentucky's Chandler Medical Center. "The results of this study also establish a basis for expanding future evaluation of MMS1 for treating AIDS in humans."

The researchers have also tested the MMS1 compound on human T-cells in vitro. In these studies, MMS1 increased: the levels of Interleukin-1 and IL-6, the proliferation of both T-cells and macrophages, MAP kinase protein activity after a ten-minute incubation, and tyrosinephosphate, a known marker of the immune system activation.

Bradley J. Carver, president and CEO of IGG International, said the company expected to initiate human clinical trials in 1997. ▼

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The program, one of many educational and support services Kaiser Permanente provides to members, is led by trained community volunteers. It is open to people living with HIV/AIDS and their partner, or a family member, or a friend.

Although there is no charge for the course, it is important to enroll now.

For further details call Health Education today at (415) 202-4921 in San Francisco or (510) 596-7397 in Oakland.



Cannabis Buyers' Club plays ball

by Hakeem Oseni II

The Cannabis Buyers' Club softball team, The CBC Heat, is participating in the 20th season of the San Francisco Gay Softball League. The team is comprised of a diverse group of straight and gay individuals living with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other life-threatening illnesses.

According to press releases, the CBC Heat is what the Cannabis Club is all about—"love, fun and compassion."

The team lost their first game by nearly 20 points, but one team member confided to the B.A.R. they have "a new strategy."

"We're gonna get the other team high, too," he said.

Games are played on Sundays through July at Langley Field; times vary, so contact Ken Grant at (415) 621-3986.

Also check out CBC World Wide Web site (<http://www.marijuana.org>) or <http://www.best.com/~cbc> for Californians for Compassionate Use and the Compassionate Use Act of 1996. Updated daily from Cannabis Towers (The Brownie Mary Building, located at 1444 Market Street), the site serves as a central collection of materials and

data, press releases, legislative stories, cartoons, photographs, and sound bytes related to medical marijuana and the culture and politics of the effort to change the current laws.

The CBC has grown to 8,500 members from its inception by founder Tod Mikuriya two and a half years ago. Members all have HIV/AIDS, cancer, glaucoma, or multiple sclerosis.

Calling Inspector donates tickets for talkline

Carole Shorenstein Hays and the Messrs. Nederlander have donated a portion of tickets sold to the Tuesday, April 9 performance of J.B. Priestley's famous drama *An Inspector Calls* to benefit San Francisco Suicide Prevention.

The tickets will be sold by SFSP volunteers, and all proceeds will benefit the organization.

Founded in 1963, the SFSP is the oldest volunteer crisis line in the United States, initially focusing on providing telephone intervention to people experiencing a suicidal crisis. The SFSP now offers much broader services—including the nation's only AIDS/HIV Nightline, which provides emotional support for people with AIDS 24 hours a day.

An Inspector Calls is the winner

of 14 major New York theater awards, including four Tony Awards. Gay director Stephen Daldry and his lover, set designer Ian McNeil, pared down the frequently-performed British drama to create a brand-new moral thriller *USA Today* called "a wake-up call for the planet." It is a superlative evening in the theatre, with twice the spectacle of *Phantom of the Opera* and 20 times the substance.

The show begins performances at the Golden Gate Theater Tuesday, April 9 and plays through May 5. To purchase benefit tickets or to get more information on the SFSP, call (415) 984-1902. ▼

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More guidelines for HIV care: do ask, do tell!

by G'dali Braverman,
ACT UP Golden Gate
Writers Pool

Late in 1990 a small group of activists from the old ACT UP New York launched an historic project called Countdown 18 Months. The objective of the project was to force the NIH and pharmaceuticals to identify and study drugs to prevent and treat the major opportunistic infections that kill people with HIV/AIDS. With the exception of drugs used to prevent and treat PCP, any writer in 1990 would have been hard-pressed to provide the community with an article discussing management of almost every other infection.

Thanks to the work of a handful of ACT UP activists, there now exist evolving standards of care that have prolonged and improved the lives of countless numbers of people with AIDS. This article will attempt to consolidate some of the information regarding therapeutic options for PCP and CMV that should be available to all patients.

PCP

While KS (Kaposi's Sarcoma) can appear in people with HIV at virtually any CD4 level, the most common infection to appear in

higher CD4s is still PCP. For most patients, initiating PCP prophylaxis (preventative therapy) is as traumatic as initiating antiretroviral therapy.

Here one arrives at a major fork in the road of treatment decisions. It requires acknowledging that the immune system is sufficiently suppressed to allow the body to be vulnerable to this major infection. While PCP is still the number one killer of people with HIV, it is very preventable and treatable.

At present, the recommended guideline for initiating PCP prophylaxis is when a patient's CD4s drop to 200. However, it is important to note that a significant number of PCP cases occur at above 200 CD4. Therefore, approaching your doctor about therapy at 250-300 CD4 is a wise option. A determining factor in choosing to start therapy earlier is your percentage of CD4 to total lymphocytes (CD4s). While some physicians use <15% as a cut-off, many feel that <20% is a safer marker.

If you know that you are the type of patient who stares at your prescription slip for a couple of weeks before taking it to your pharmacist, or you procrastinate and contemplate the child-proof cap on a new bottle of pills before popping the first tablet, then get the ball rolling sooner.

Septa (also known as Bactrim) is still the preferred PCP prophylaxis. It remains unclear whether taking the RS or DS (regular or double-strength) pill daily is more effective. Additionally, we are unsure as to whether DS three times a week is preferable to RS or DS daily. Dapsone runs a very close second as an effective prophylaxis for patients who have never had an episode of PCP. This is an important option for patients who are allergic to Septa.

PCP pitfalls

If you have an allergic reaction to Septa pills (e.g. severe rash) your doctor should let you know about the option of doing "desensitization": taking daily small amounts of a liquid formulation over the course of one to two weeks. Most patients are able to successfully remain on Septa pills after undergoing desensitization.

If you took Dapsone as your primary prophylaxis, and actually got diagnosed with PCP, you should seriously contemplate adding monthly Aerosolized Pentamidine to prevent PCP recurrence. Don't rely exclusively on a drug that has already failed to protect you from "active" infection. Although combination therapy is not "approved," it is widely accepted by practitioners.

Prior to the approval of Septa, Dapsone, Mepron, and other drugs for the treatment of active PCP, many patients were hospitalized for the duration of each PCP episode. Managed care now brings us everything short of heart transplants on an outpatient basis. This is a critical concern for people with AIDS. Know the symptoms of PCP, and get yourself to your doctor or hospital quickly. The difference in survival is linked to the severity of your di-

agnosis.

Ask whether you are categorized as having "mild, moderate, or severe" PCP. The treatment(s) should vary accordingly. Make sure that you have X-rays done at the earliest possible time. Request weekly follow-up X-rays to determine whether you are responding positively to treatment. Always ask for a copy of your X-rays and all other results. They are your property! Having them handy can be very useful for future care.

You should beware of relying on the results of a "finger sats" test alone. (That's when a clothes-pin type of object is placed on your forefinger.)

Moreover, if this is performed only when you are in a resting state, be even more skeptical of the results. If you present with clear-cut symptoms such as shortness of breath, you can request that arterial blood gas be tested. It's a quick procedure involving a prick of the artery at your wrist. This is an important diagnostic in identifying the severity of PCP. Don't underestimate this disease, and don't assume that being treated outpatient means that this is not a life-threatening condition. Insist on proper and frequent monitoring.

CMV disease

While much discussion has abounded regarding viral load testing for HIV, there has been precious little attention given to the importance of viral load testing for CMV (Cytomegalovirus; the primary cause of blindness in people with AIDS). Ask your doctor whether s/he can order this test for you. They can call Chiron (located in Emeryville) to find out how to access this tool. This is particularly important for people with CD4 <100.

Several studies have shown that high levels of CMV, when detected using PCR testing of blood and urine, are predictive of development of disease. Recently the FDA approved Oral Ganciclovir as the first prophylaxis for CMV. Although this drug has been shown to reduce CMV levels, your doctor may be hesitant to prescribe this drug because of some conflicting data. Regardless of how one interprets that data, it is critical to determine whether you are at higher than normal risk of developing active CMV infection. The CMV bDNA, viral load, test is the best diagnostic.

Aside from oral Ganciclovir, the best preventative strategy is regular eye exams. This does not mean seeing your optometrist, the person who prescribes your eyeglasses. Some managed healthcare plans may try to refer you to an optometrist. Insist on seeing an ophthalmologist! S/he can not prevent CMV retinitis (infection of the retina), but early diagnosis can mean the difference between saving the sight in an eye or loss of "visual acuity."

For patients who are newly diagnosed with CMV retinitis, be sure to determine the location of lesions in your eye. Your eye doctor can let you know whether your diagnosis is more severe

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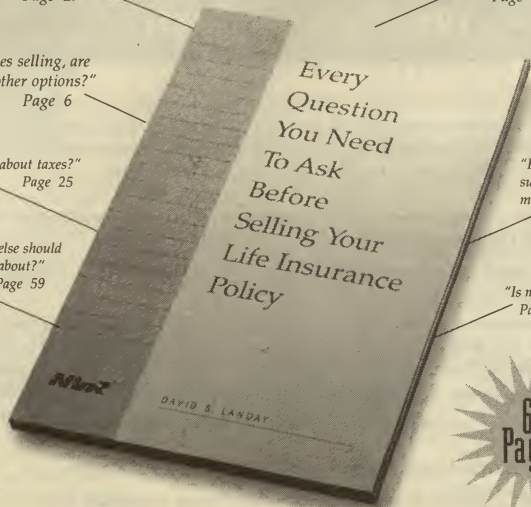
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Raw fish

by Michael C. Botkin

The other day I was hanging out at Nippon Sushi. Although I still stick to my determination not to eat raw fish, I do appreciate a certain amount of cooked fish while watching huge, attractive platters of sashimi be prepared. Another customer came in and took the stool next to mine at the sushi bar, then we recognized each other as Fabulous Activists and began to dish.

Almost immediately he saw that I was drinking from a glass of water. "Oh god, you don't know where that water has been. What about cryptosporidium? You can't drink that!" I had just bicycled uphill and into the wind to get to Nippon, and I just shrugged and said I needed it.

I was curious as to what he would order. He asked for a bunch of sushi, but I couldn't hear, so I simply waited for his to appear. My own chirashi with cooked fish arrived, fat slices of barbecued eel hissing lightly. Then his arrived, and I saw a formation of raw fish advancing toward us.

Now I couldn't help but protest. "Hey, raw fish?" But his response was an almost exact replica of mine earlier. He shrugged and said, "You gotta eat."

Still, I couldn't help but wonder at how seriously we took different threats to the devoluted immune systems of HIVers. I considered unfiltered water to be a fairly minor risk, but raw fish to be a much deadlier threat. With him it was the other way around, with water being a clear and present danger and raw fish being a slightly suspect foodstuff.

And the fact is, both of us could make well-founded arguments in favor of our positions. The risk of cryptosporidium to HIVers was unfortunately demonstrated in Milwaukee, where hundreds of them died. A pretty icky way to die. Not necessarily ickier, however, than getting a weird brain infection from your sushi. And the deciding factor, the relative rates of these two disorders, remains almost completely unknown. So we are each free to decide as we see fit.

Holdover space

The sad fact of the matter is that a low T-cell HIVer has got a lot to watch out for. Most of us are taking fairly hefty amounts of various drugs, to either treat ongoing conditions or ward off the return of some opportunistic infection. This is in addition to antivirals. For example, I take five antibiotics in pill form every day, and twice a day infuse another one. It's actually kind of a miracle that I can still digest any food, but my body seems to have adapted to this jigsawed routine.

Most of these antibiotics are to fight my ever present MAC, but a couple of others are in there just to keep PCP and other similar nasties contained. And there's fluconazole to prevent a relapse into cryptococcal meningitis and acyclovir to prevent a recurrence of herpes. There are two antivirals (both nucleoside analogs, but I'm just waiting for the new protease inhibitors to make it to

Walgreen's). Finally, there are a couple of vitamins.

Once upon a time, I would have found this deluge of pills a little overwhelming, but now I've got it down pretty well. I have a week-long pill box, about the size of my keyboard. Each day is split into four compartments, and you can schedule your pills a week at a time.

I still have and even use my old-fashioned AZT beeping pillbox. It seems so weird now that we know that the answer to the problem wasn't to get the doses in exactly four-hour intervals, but rather to cut the whole dose by half or two-thirds! And of course, the assumption that AZT would be the only pill that you would need is now recognized as somewhat facetious.

The other night at the Patio Cafe, I broke off my attack on a New York steak served on a platter of fettuccine alfredo (see, I do know how to pack calories) to take a couple of pills. The woman sitting next to me was surprised to see my ancient AZT box: "You don't see them around much anymore." I acknowledged that this was true, and my continued use was really the oddity. The box is way too small to hold any decent number of decent pills, and the timer, while it makes a handy alarm clock, doesn't have a real lot

"The sad fact of the matter is that a low T-cell HIVer has got a lot to watch out for. Most of us are taking fairly hefty amounts of various drugs, to either treat ongoing conditions or ward off the return of some opportunistic infection. This is in addition to antivirals. For example I take five antibiotics in pill form everyday, and twice a day infuse another one. It's actually kind of a miracle that I can still digest any food, but my body seems to have adapted to this jigsawed routine."

to do with the drugs.

So it has become a kind of holdover space. I have a couple of morphine tablets (you never can tell when you're going to need them), a marinol, a vitamin or two, several Excedrin PMs and a couple of pills that belong to my partner (some are anti-inflammatories and some are painkillers). This leaves enough room for me to squeeze in a couple of pills that are next on the list to go down.

De-facto ignorance

If it sounds like I take a drug every time I have a problem, let me assure you that this is not the case. Some things just aren't serious enough to get you onto another med. For example, after I recovered from my cryptococcal meningitis, I found that I hiccupped. Not very violently, but sometimes for many hours at a stretch. Hiccupping is one of the symptoms of CM, so this is why I was originally concerned.

We asked my doctor, who consulted with other doctors and eventually came back with some answers. "Hiccupping is a fairly typical symptom that can result from CM. Many HIVers have it. There is one treatment that has

good results: thorazine."

Now thorazine is usually given to inmates in psychiatric hospitals, and is famous for the "thorazine shuffle" that the patients so treated drop into. Of course, the preventative dose for hiccupping would be smaller, but still...

I decided to brave out the hiccups without the thorazine. I also took a pass on ketoconazole, an anti-fungal my doctor had offered to treat my toenail fungus. The thought of taking a systemic drug to clean up a toenail just didn't send me. I treated it with a topical drug instead, and now (three years later, it is true),

it's completely cleared up, though I suppose this could be due to the fluconazole I started on last year.

The real problem at the center of all this is the de facto ignorance of the virus and how it works. We have some good general data on the natural course of the disease, but a poor understanding of how it does what it does.

In the meantime, we low T-cell HIVers will continue to do whatever seems to help. We'll avoid water or raw fish or maybe even both. We'll take as many preventative drugs as we can hold. And I'll try not to hiccup. ▼



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OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number.

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Thom Bean

Dec. 27, 1944 — March 17, 1996



Born in Nashville, Tenn., Thom lived in Nashville, Chicago, New York City, Evansville and, finally, San Francisco, where he made his home for the past 16 years.

He was an activist in the gay community since the early days of gay liberation. Thom was a founding member and the first chairman of BWMT/ SFBA. He also served as Third World co-chair of the San Francisco Gay Pride Parade Committee, president of San Francisco

Girth & Mirth, interim co-chair of the Coalition for Human Rights with Carol Migden, director of the *Out/Look* Foundation Board, and co-facilitator of Racism and Homophobia in the Media with Pat Norman.

Thom was published by *The Advocate*, *Out/Look*, *New York Native*, *NYQ*, *QW*, *Outlines*, *B.A.R.*, *Sentinel*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *San Francisco Bay Times*. He was a forceful advocate for gays and lesbians of all colors. He had an inclusive vision which marked his activism and writing.

Thom is survived by many friends across the country and by his mother, Rostella Bean; his sisters, Cheryl and Phyllis Bean; his two nephews; and four nieces. Family and friends ask that contributions be made to BAHSES, 3135 Courtland Ave., Oakland, CA 94619.

Richard Paul Marshall

Feb. 9, 1954 — March 13, 1996



To remember our enchanting Richard, who brought us delight beyond imagining. Sweet RPM, you went too fast; but oh the joy you spun for those who ventured into your light and had the courage to stay there. Peace, at last, beautiful man. You are in our hearts forever. — Kenneth Edwin Wiltse and Rollin Jensen.

Gerardo Sanchez

Dec. 4, 1946 — April 2, 1992



It's been four years since Gerardo left us, and still many people remember him with the same love and sympathy they shared with him while he was alive. Although Gerardo is not physically

here with us anymore, he still lives in our hearts day by day. His memories are like little stars that are constantly shining and guiding us through the paths of our lives. He is always there ready to give us a helping hand when we most need it. His smile can still cure the most severe depression, and his musical voice is the best remedy for our unhappy days.

I love coming home and looking at his picture on my dresser, and the many tapes he recorded serve me as a time machine that takes me back in time where I can still hold his hand. Thank you for having helped me find it. I knew you would listen to my prayers. Thank you and God bless you always. — Ricardo and Armando.

Martin McDonald

March 26, 1996



The final full meeting of the Evil Flannel Sisters was held at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26. Martin McDonald, charter member and co-founder, resigned his position and left this plane for other dance

floors. The other three members were in attendance, and bid him a fond and loving farewell.

Martin's transition was quiet and peaceful, quite unlike his usual facetious self. Always thinking of others ahead of himself, he wanted his farewell to be calm and serene. While his quick wit, humor and love of partying (quack!) will be sorely missed, the members know he is bringing joy and entertainment to his new companions and old friends who have also graduated from this course. (Say hi! to Jack Rabbit.)

After the meeting adjourned, the remaining members vowed to keep alive the spirit, hope and love Martin embodied. The final minutes of the meeting read: "Save us a dance and some wiggle; we'll see you when we get there. It's just over the next hill..."

William T. Smith

July 21, 1943 — March 27, 1996



Bill's spirit won over AIDS on Wednesday, March 27. He wanted to go home. He left us all, celebrating his life. He has so greatly challenged, taught, guided, inspired, encouraged, defined, loved and graced our lives, through unconditional love.

We miss you so much... KUSF 90.3 FM will celebrate Bill Smith on Saturday, April 6, 2-3 p.m. Bill can be reached at the KUSF Bus Stop Web Page: <http://www.cit.usfca.edu/bustop>.

Gifts in Bill's memory can be made to: Friends of Bill Smith Fund, c/o Frances M. Swett, 5201 Roma Ave., NE, No. 412, Albuquerque, NM 87108 (provides emergency funds for people with AIDS); or UCC/DOC AIDS Ministry, 20 Woodside Ave., San Francisco, CA 94127.

Shana Denise Kreiner

("Bunny" "Rabbit")
July 3, 1971 — March 28, 1996

Shana died Thursday, March 28, following a brief illness. She rejoined her life companion, Paul Martin Gunn, who died last year. She is survived by her grandmothers, Edna Coults and Lola Kreiner; her mother, Sharlene Kreiner; her aunt, Donna Coults; her sisters, Rhonda Kreiner and Shelli Cormier; a niece; two nephews; and her daughter, Angelica Crystal Kreiner.

Memorial services will be held on Friday, April 12, at noon at Spiritmenders Community Center, 3379 26th St. (at Mission), and at 4 p.m. at Network Ministries, Room 230, Ambassador Hotel, 55 Mason St. (at Eddy). Interment will be private at Thousand Oaks, California.

In lieu of flowers, contributions to Spiritmenders, Project Open Hand, Visiting Nurses and Hospice, Shanti Project, AIDS Emergency Fund, Network Ministries or Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services are requested.

Jeffery L. Farber

Oct. 11, 1955 — March 23, 1996



Jeffery Farber died of complications from AIDS at Kaiser San Francisco. He is survived by his paternal grandparents: parents, Jodie and Gene Farber of Shawnee, Kan.; sister, Mindy of

Mission, Kan.; Mindy's two children; and numerous friends in San Francisco, Hawaii, New Jersey, Oakland, Kansas City, San Diego and Finland.

Jeffery graduated from California College of Arts and Crafts in 1978, and worked as a design professional for many years. His skills took him to Singapore, Tokyo and Honolulu, and then back to San Francisco. Jeffery adored his dog, Tidbit, who is in the photo with him.

There are many people to thank for all their support, mainly Sean, the three Michaels, Andrew, Catherine, Chris, Doug, and the staff of Kaiser and St. Luke's. Aloha, my friend.

Ronald L. (Ron) Duncan

Oct. 7, 1948 — March 1, 1996

Ron's journey through life came to an end at his home in his native Louisville. At his side when his long, valiant struggle with lymphoma concluded were his life partner, Andrew Keisker; mother, Regina; sisters, Brenda and Sharon; and brother, Larry. In the early 1970s, Ron embarked



upon a career in convention bureau management. In Milwaukee, he met his first life partner, the late artist Robert Uyyari. In 1978, Ron and Robert relocated to the San Francisco

area. In the years the two were here, their social activities centered around San Francisco's leather community. In the early 1980s, the themes of many of Robert's works reflected the SoMa district, while Ron was a finalist in many leather contests.

In 1983, AIDS drove Ron and Robert back to Milwaukee. In May 1984, Ron competed in Chicago for the title of International Mr. Leather. Shortly thereafter, Robert took ill and died of AIDS in June 1986. Ron returned to Louisville, where he had to face his own crisis...lymphoma. However, in 1990, Ron met his new life partner, Andrew, there, with whom he shared the rest of his life.

On March 16, over 200 people gathered in Louisville's Christ Church Cathedral to join in a celebration of Ron's life. Rest in peace my friend...and thank you for coming into our lives.

Donald Albert Savala

1950 — 1996



Donald Albert Savala died March 27 of AIDS. He was preceded in death by his partner and soulmate, John F. Hoover II. Born in Los Angeles, Donald lived in various cities throughout

the U.S. before finally settling in San Francisco (his hometown since 1971). He was a field representative for ISO Commercial Risk Services. He owned an extensive collection of ducks, all gifts from friends ("One of the risks of being named Donald," he would remark).

To those who came to know him in his final days, he will be remembered for his fierce independence, combined with a genuine sweetness and an unflinching sense of humor. According to Donald, he was the last of his circle of friends. He is survived by his mother, Elizabeth Ressor. He lived life to the fullest; he died in his own time; he will be missed by his new-found friends.

Thomas R. Bauman

Sept. 18, 1939 — March 8, 1996



Always one to seek the less traveled path, by the time he left Pittsburgh, Penn., at the age of 20, Tom had long been a devout Buddhist, fluent in Spanish, and successful as an importer of handicrafts. For two years, he studied Portuguese in New York City, then came to San Francisco and knew he had found his home.

After first operating a florist shop, Tom became a professional translator, serving as president of the American Translator's Association (1979-81) and founder and president of the California Translator's Association.

Ten years ago, Tom became a professional hypnotherapist. Many of his former clients credit him with not only enriching but, in some cases, saving their lives.

After 10 months of failing health, Tom died peacefully in his sleep with our friend Geri at his bedside. He was a gentle and gifted man who loved his family and friends, his pets, Mexico and redwood forests. His integrity, compassion and humor will be missed by admirers in many countries.

Tom requested no formal service and that any memorial donations be made to Sempervirens Fund in Los Altos, to help preserve his beloved redwood trees.

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Gays leave the service—some voluntarily

Keith Meinhold, the only person to successfully challenge in court the old ban on gays in the military and remain on active duty, retired from the Navy on March 27. He ended his 16-year military career by deciding to take a package of early retirement benefits.

"My emotions and my heart say to stay in the Navy, but my head says, 'You're 33 years old and it's time to start a second career,'" explained Meinhold.

He will make a fundraising tour to benefit the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) before settling into a new life. In the past he indicated some interest in attending law school and also in going into politics.

Elsewhere, SLDN's efforts to publicize a "witch hunt" of alleged lesbians on a ship based in the Mediterranean have led to an investigation by the Inspector General of the Department of Defense.

The incident centers around the USS Simon Lake, a submarine tender based in Italy. It started when seaman Amy Barnes, 20, rejected the amorous advances of a male colleague. She pressed charges of sexual harassment, but ended up being investigated herself on rumors and innuendo of her own sexual orientation.

According to SLDN, the "witch hunt" spread to involve as many as 60 women and used investigative tactics that are not allowed under administrative regulations. The Pentagon does not comment on investigations in progress. ▼

—Bob Roehr



Keith Meinhold

'Don't Ask...'

◀ front cover

that Holmes was irked "that the Constitution does not protect his own favorite nasty habits." He was later removed from the case.

"This ruling is the sole authority on this issue in northern California and will probably influence other cases throughout the United States," said Jay Kuo of Howard Rice, Nemerovsky, Canady Falk and Rabin, one of the attorneys who represented Holmes.

"We are elated. It's a very well thought-out opinion."

"She got it. She understood this was about homophobia and discrimination, and she ruled in our favor on the primary claims of free speech and equal protection."

The judge, however, declined to rule on state constitutional challenges, referring those issues to the state judiciary.

Attorneys for Holmes will file a separate state challenge in San Francisco Superior Court, as well as a claim for \$1 million in punitive damages against California, for what they contend was an illegal firing. California state law forbids employers from discriminating based on sexual orientation.

Holmes was discharged after he sent a letter in June 1993 to his commander, in which he came out as a gay man.

"I had been biting my tongue for a long time," he said.

Based on prejudice

The Holmes case is only the second nationwide to find the "don't ask, don't tell" policy approved by President Clinton unconstitutional; the other was in

New York. Judges in five other cases challenging the rule have upheld its legality, said Paul Wotman, who also represented Holmes.

"The important point is the judge found the policy was based on prejudice, the prejudice of heterosexuals who are afraid of associating with gay men and lesbians. A policy based on prejudice has been legally declared unconstitutional," he said, "by a judge who has a great deal of courage."

"You know, I knew we'd win," said Holmes, 37, of Sacramento, minutes after the decision was released. "I just intuitively knew that we'd be on the right side of this issue. It [the policy] is just unfair, mean, and wrong."

Holmes, who now works as a

technical writer, said he was not sure if he would go back to his post with the California Army National Guard.

"I could say yes today, but a lot of things can change," Holmes said.

An attorney for Holmes said his return is not imminent since the U.S. government is expected to appeal the ruling. The legal issues in the case are eventually expected to go to the United States Supreme Court.

State and federal attorneys representing the government could not be immediately reached for comment. ▼

Sandra Ann Harris contributed to this report.

ACT UP

◀ page 22

(Zone 1 being more central) or peripheral (Zone 3). Until recently patients were standardly treated with one of two daily intravenous drugs. Now patients request the newly approved intravitreal implants that provide time release drug from a microcapsule device which is surgically placed into the eye. The results have been astounding in terms of delaying progression of lesions. Implants are most highly recommended for "immediately sight threatening central retinal lesions."

For newly diagnosed patients who have peripheral retinitis, oral Ganciclovir appears to be an effective option after completion of a full course of intravenous drug. This can provide a significant quality of life benefit, since you won't have to receive daily IV therapy.

Finally, patients with recurrent retinitis have many more options. Very recent data from a national study shows that combination treatment with Ganciclovir and Foscarnet was far more effective than switching or continuing on current monotherapy. This combination could be tough to tolerate, but individuals may consider it a worthwhile option in preserving sight. Another extremely important option is Cidofovir. On March 15 the FDA approved Cidofovir for standard CMV treatment. Cidofovir offers the important benefit of less frequent dosing. Instead of twice a day IVs (with Ganciclovir or Foscarnet), which taper down to once a day after two weeks, Cidofovir is administered only once a week for two weeks, followed by treatment once every two weeks.

If the thought of all the above procedures is a bit much for you to swallow, than you're not going to want to hear about salvage therapy involving direct injections of drug into the eye. This, too, is an option your doctors should be prepared to discuss. Not all patients tolerate or respond to systemic therapy. Localized injections are important options. At present Ganciclovir is available for such treatment. Cidofovir is

being studied on a limited basis; while the drug is now approved and available, your clinician has little data on which to proceed.

Pitfalls in CMV

Despite the phenomenal advances in the treatment of CMV, your best weapon is early detection. If your CD4s are <100 be sure to see your ophthalmologist at least every 3 months. Book it in advance for an entire year. If your CD4s are <50 see your ophthalmologist every 4 to 6 weeks. Your health insurance will probably try to fight you on it, but just remember: the difference between Zone 3 peripheral retinitis and Zone 1 central retinitis is only three weeks. That's how quickly CMV retinitis can progress when untreated.

For people with HIV whose CD4>100, make sure you see the ophthalmologist every three months. If your CD4s are much higher, twice a year is fine. However, if you have been diagnosed with CMV infection outside of the eye (Colon, Esophagus) make sure that you are immediately referred for an eye exam. Remember, your gastroenterologist communicates with your general doctor, not your eye doctor. The thought of an eye exam may not be the first thing that comes to his/her mind: however, it should be your first thought.

For additional information on Standard of Care, contact ACT UP/Golden Gate. At present we can provide you with the ACT UP Philadelphia guidelines. As always we invite you to join us in working directly on treatment and research issues. Imagine the advances we could have made if more than a handful of people had worked on Countdown 18 Months back in 1990. ▼

This article is dedicated to the memory of Michael Wright and Scott Slutsky, whose work on Countdown 18 Months was pivotal to the approval of several drugs that are widely used in the prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections.



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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202862

The following person(s) are doing business as ASSOCIATED BUILDERS, 4026 3rd Street, San Francisco, CA 94124: John H. Chung, 371 Klamath Street, Brisbane, CA, 94005. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 11, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed John H. Chung. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar. 11, 1996.

Mar 14, 21, 28, Apr 04, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202838

The following person(s) are doing business as MUSICA LATINA-AMERICANA MUSIC-MISSION MUSIC CENTER, 2653 Mission St, San Francisco, CA 94110: Ernesto Revena Gonzalez, 1541 Edgeworth Ave., Colma, CA 94014. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 08, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Ernesto R. Gonzalez. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar. 08, 1996.

Mar 14, 21, 28, Apr 04, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202830

The following person(s) are doing business as COUP D ETAT, INC., 550 15th St. Suite 24, San Francisco, CA 94103: Coup D Etat, Inc (Delaware Corp), 550 15th St. Suite 24, San Francisco, CA 94103. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of February 13, 1996. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Frederick Krueger, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 08, 1996.

Mar 14, 21, 28, Apr 04, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202829

The following person(s) are doing business as WHITE SANDS MULTIMEDIA, 1817

California St. #203, San Francisco, CA 94109: Chris Athanas, 1817 California St. #203, San Francisco, CA 94109. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 8, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Chris Athanas. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 08, 1996.

Mar 14, 21, 28, Apr 04, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202819

The following person(s) are doing business as THE LAST DRAGON, 72 Mirabel Ave, San Francisco, CA 94110: Jack Lewis Care, 72 Mirabel Ave, San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 08, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Jack L. Care. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 08, 1996.

Mar 14, 21, 28, Apr 04, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202690

The following person(s) are doing business as THE GANGWAY, 841 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109: Waltraud Ziegler, 350 Turk Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Waltraud Ziegler. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 05, 1996.

Mar 14, 21, 28, Apr 04, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202758

The following person(s) are doing business as ABE'S CAFE, 553 Divisadero St., San Francisco, CA 94117: Ibrahim Hadeed, 448 Goettingen St., San Francisco, CA 94134. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 06, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Ibrahim Hadeed. This statement was filed

with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 06, 1996.

Mar 14, 21, 28, Apr 04, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202824

The following person(s) are doing business as MORALES SUBRIZI AND ASSOCIATES, 866 Green Street #6, San Francisco, CA 94133: Dulce M. Morales, 866 Green Street #6, San Francisco, CA 94133. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 08, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Dulce M. Morales. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 08, 1996.

Mar 21, 28, Apr 04, 11, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 203027

The following person(s) are doing business as MAC SUPPORT ASSOCIATES, 584 Castro Street Suite 331, San Francisco, CA 94114-2500: Christie NMN Raemer, Jr., 584 Castro Street Suite 331, San Francisco, CA 94114-2500. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Christie Raemer, Jr. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 15, 1996.

Mar 21, 28, Apr 04, 11, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202758

The following person(s) are doing business as CROW BAGS, 250 Napoleon St. Suite E, San Francisco, CA 94124: Daria Hilton, 2518 Third St., San Francisco, CA 94107: Eric R. Hilton, 1752 Fell St., San Francisco, CA 94117. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by co-partners. Signed Daria Hilton. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 14, 1996.

Mar 21, 28, Apr 04, 11, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202672

The following person(s) are doing business as WORLD INSPECTION NETWORK OF METRO SAN FRANCISCO, 2215-R Market St. #507, San Francisco, CA 94114: Knight Inspections, Inc. (a California Corp.), 660 Clippert St. #213, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Dec. 01, 1995. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Nicholas J. Knight, Pres. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 04, 1996.

Mar 21, 28, Apr 04, 11, 1996.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 976918

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTRY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of CHRISTIE NMN RAEMER, JR. for change of name. The application of CHRISTIE NMN RAEMER, JR. for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that CHRISTIE NMN RAEMER, JR. has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to ERIC CHRISTIAN FORBES. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 2nd day of May, 1996, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day, to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said country, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 20th day of March, 1996.

Mar 28, Apr 04, 11, 18, 1996.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 976971

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTRY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of VINCENT MICHAEL ANDREWS for change of name. The application of VINCENT MICHAEL ANDREWS for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that VINCENT MICHAEL ANDREWS has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to LAURENCE VINCENT ANDREWS. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 6th day of May, 1996, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day, to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said country, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 21st day of March, 1996.

Mar 28, Apr 04, 11, 18, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 203246

The following person(s) are doing business as LUCKY OCEAN DONUTS, 1501 Ocean Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94112: Kanan Year, 98 Diana St., San Francisco, CA 94124. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 25, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Kanan Year. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 25, 1996.

Mar 28, Apr 04, 11, 18, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 203278

The following person(s) are doing business as LITTLE CITY ANTIPASTI BAR, 673 Union St., San Francisco, CA 94133: Simone L. Salters, 1600 Clement Street #203, San Francisco, CA 94118. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 25, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed S. Salters. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 25, 1996.

Mar 28, Apr 04, 11, 18, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202579

The following person(s) are doing business as LITTLE CITY ANTIPASTI BAR, 673 Union St., San Francisco, CA 94133: PRG Food Co. Inc. (California), 673 Union St., San Francisco, CA 94133. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of February 29, 1996. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Valerie Tashjian, Treasurer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb 29, 1996.

Mar 28, Apr 04, 11, 18, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 203309

The following person(s) are doing business as WEB SCOUTS, 14 B Hill Street, San Francisco, CA 94110: Eric A. Politzer, 14 B Hill Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 26, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Eric Politzer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 26, 1996.

Mar 28, Apr 04, 11, 18, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 203494

The following person(s) are doing business as BEST FARES TRAVEL SERVICES, 333 Kearny St. Suite 700, San Francisco, CA 94108: Libberty Lu, 1335 Pacific Avenue, Rm 418, San Francisco, CA 94109. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 01, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Libberty Lu. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Apr 02, 1996.

Apr 04, 11, 18, 25, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 203310

The following person(s) are doing business as KAMEI RESTAURANT SUPPLY, 507 Clement St., San Francisco, CA 94118: Quyen To Huynh, 825 La Playa #323, San Francisco, CA 94121. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 22, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Quyen To Huynh. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 26, 1996.

Apr 04, 11, 18, 25, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 203372

The following person(s) are doing business as FRISCO COMMUNICATIONS, 1547 48th Ave #3, San Francisco, CA 94122-2801: Robert Leone, 1547 48th Ave #3, San Francisco, CA 94122-2801. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 28, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Robert Leone. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 28, 1996.

Apr 04, 11, 18, 25, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 203327

The following person(s) are doing business as ART MIRAGE, 439 Jersey St., San Francisco, CA 94114: Melanie Olstad, 439 Jersey St., San Francisco, CA 94114 and Debora Ann Berch, 516 Missouri St., San Francisco, CA 94107. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed Melanie Olstad. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 27, 1996.

Apr 04, 11, 18, 25, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 203285

The following person(s) are doing business as JASPER MORGAN, 323 Potrero Ave, San Francisco, CA 94118: Josef M. Cibulka, 4328 20th St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 25, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Josef Cibulka. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 25, 1996.

Apr 04, 11, 18, 25, 1996.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS STATEMENT FILE NO. 161623

The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business known as JOSEPH TRAVEL SERVICES, at 333 Kearny St. Ste 700 & 702, San Francisco, CA 94108. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on April 14, 1992. Name and address of registrant: CONSTANCIA LU SUE, 333 Kearny St. #700, San Francisco, CA 94108. This business was conducted by an individual. Signed CONSTANCIA LU SUE. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County on the date April 02, 1996 Gregory J. Diaz, County Clerk-Recorder, by Joanne Huynh.

Apr 04, 11, 18, 25, 1996.

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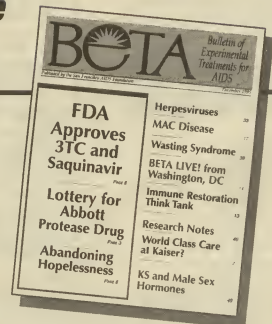
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Sex and violence
1971-1996 in the pages
of the Bay Area Reporter.
pages 36-66

Been behind bars?
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page 40

Greta Grass
recalls the places
where we've been.
page 34



Carole Migden
predicts where
we should be going.
page 67



THE BAY AREA REPORTER Celebrates 25 Years

Vol. 26 • No. 14 • 4 April 1996
SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY EDITION



Prelude to the '79
White Night Riots.

The Persistence of Vision

Today's journalism story, it is said, is tomorrow's history lecture. True, it isn't said as often as "those who don't remember the past are condemned to repeat it," but it may be just as true.

Historians who hope to tell the story of any civilization, whether it is San Francisco gays and lesbians, ancient Greeks, or New Zealand bushmen, must describe significant occurrences as more than isolated events. Only by showing how those overlapping events complemented, clashed with, and butted against each other can they explain history.

The collective memory of a population is the only thing worth studying history for, after all; everything else is just *dish*.

The history of our community is written in small accomplishments and large, in box scores and lots of Roman numerals after titles, stitched into quilts and banners and flags, and etched into stone. And much of it has been written here in the *Bay Area Reporter*, in over 1,000 issues that have all had the same goal: to keep gay people informed in this world where knowledge is power and silence equals death.

The phrase "the persistence of memory" may sound like a Salvador Dali painting or a Joni Mitchell album, but it is actually the name scientists gave the effect of moving pictures upon our eyes. That phenomenon of imprinting an image onto our retina and leaving it there just long enough to join with the next one, is what makes it possible for films, TV, and CD ROMs to look so natural as they move.

The process is very fast in those media — the eye and brain hold the image for a fraction of a second — but here in the print journalism business it operates a little more slowly. In the case of the *B.A.R.*, it's been going on one issue at a time since 1971.

Along the way, we hope, the images and incidents join to form a living testament to the unique lives and times in this magic city. Even with an epidemic and an uphill political battle, we think the evidence proves San Francisco gays and lesbians should be damn proud of themselves for building a better world. Historians will agree, someday.

This issue commemorates the past quarter of a century of gay and lesbian history in San Francisco. We're glad we were a part of it, and are looking forward excitedly to what's coming next. ▼

An angry demo in front of the Federal Bldg. after the Supreme Court ruled in the Bowers vs. Hardwick case in '86.

Confessions of a B.A.R.fly

by Supervisor Tom Ammiano

I must confess that as an admitted "newspaper junkie," I await the weekly appearance of the *B.A.R.* with anticipation. For the past 25 years the *B.A.R.* has entertained, amused, informed, and pissed off San Francisco and the Bay Area's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. The *Bay Area Reporter* (*B.A.R.*) serves an important function as an information source and as an unequal megaphone

to alert the community to the many opportunities and dangers we have faced and addressed during the past quarter century.

A still-thriving product of the ferment and explosion of energy among lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender people that took place in San Francisco and the Bay Area in the 1970's, the *B.A.R.* has grown and changed with the communities it served throughout the years. From the ground broken in creating the possibility of visible existence for our communities by early heroes like the beloved Jose Sarria, still our "Widow Norton, Nightingale of Montgomery Street," and lesbian pioneers like Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, and countless other lesbians,

gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered people, this institution arose.

Founder, publisher, and sometime editor and writer Bob Ross has skillfully guided the *Bay Area Reporter* through the financial and publishing shoals and whirlpools that have sunk many other community newspapers through this tempestuous quarter century. From its modest beginnings as a free advertising sheet for some of our communities' most popular bars, it quickly developed into a potent vehicle for the rising political aspirations of our communities and especially of Harvey Milk.

In the weekly pages of the *B.A.R.*, the heartbeat of our communities resounds. For decades the annual whirl of the early drag balls and riotous CMC

page 36 ►

Once upon a time in San Francisco

Greta Grass recalls life on the lavender plank

by Mary Richards

Company is a small, tidy bar on Nob Hill, just a few blocks from the prestigious Fairmont Hotel. In February, its walls were decorated with posters, pictures and mementos from the past—a past that reflected the gay community in all its glory, and a past that is remembered by a few people who are still around to tell its story. Bartender Greta Grass is one of these people, and her tale of the city is not fiction, it's fact.

Greta arrived in San Francisco in 1957, and her first bartending job was at a little place called The Handlebar, located one block away from Company. She laughs at the irony of someone taking 37 years to travel one block, but the journey has been filled with fun and adventure.

"Behind the bar we were policemen first and bartenders second," she says. "Remember, those were the days when you couldn't touch in a gay bar. You went to the corner bar with your football buddies, and you could put your arm around your buddy and say, 'Hey, that was a great touchdown, wasn't it?' But in a gay bar you couldn't put your arm around your buddy because the bartender would say, 'No touching!' If you touched somebody in a gay bar, you were told to knock it off, and if you walked into a gay bar and kissed somebody, you were eighty-sixed for life."

In those years, gay politics didn't exist, so the Alcohol & Beverage Control (ABC) was all-powerful. If bars wanted to stay in business, they had to obey ABC.

Many of the bars served just beer and wine. Greta worked at one of these watering holes, The Jumping Frog. "We had been open for about three years," Greta recalls, "and the ABC brought charges against us, saying that there was a male bartender who the customers called 'Greta.' I was being called by a woman's name, and the ABC was trying to make that a legitimate charge. When they put me on the stand and I testified, I said 'Yes, they call me Greta. It's a joke among my customers.' I'm a big fan of Greta Garbo, and so they give me the nickname Greta. I didn't tell them that everybody I knew had a girl's name. The judge chuckled about it, and the charge was thrown out."

Stalinist goon patrol

The ABC played on the fears of the gay community and the bars it frequented. One of their favorite plays was to hire young, good-looking men to entrap customers. "They'd walk into the men's room and start dangling their privates in an enticing way," Greta recalls. "If you happened to go over to them and say something, anything of a sexual nature, they'd arrest you for lewd conduct. And they're the ones who were doing it. Until the mid-'60s, the fear of the ABC was pretty well entrenched in the gay community."

In those days, Polk Street was already famous, and the gay community dubbed it Polkstrasse. Greta remembers it as a cruising area, "like some fancy street in Hamburg." The first bar for gay folks South of Market was The Toolbox. "It was featured in *Life*

magazine in 1963," Greta says. "I have pictures of it at home. Inside, they showed pictures of gay life in San Francisco, pictures of The Toolbox and The Jumping Frog."

When Cloud 7—at Polk and Union—first opened, the owners confessed they weren't making any money, Greta says. "So they turned it into a queer bar. In 1962 it turned gay, and when the owner opened it up as such he ended up doing four times the business without the headaches. It was just a matter of changing his attitude. I worked there for several years. We made good money."

Greta says that when Cloud 7 needed a paint job, everyone came in after hours and painted. "Then, managers and bartenders worked together and did this kind of thing," Greta says wistfully. "Nobody ever paid for a decorator. You just got together and did it. It was a little bit like Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney. 'Hey, we can do that! You want it pink tomorrow, we'll do it pink tomorrow.'"

In the '60s, something happened that altered the police harassment that San Francisco gays and lesbians had come to know as a routine part of life: the hippie movement. Flower Power hit the streets, and police were kept busy trying to handle this odd and unprecedented social phenomenon. A more significant change occurred in the mid-'60s when the gay community began to stick together and organize.

In 1964, five gay groups sponsored a benefit for the Council on Religion and Homosexuality, an event that, unbeknownst to them in attendance, was the first drag ball ever held in San Francisco.



Leaves of Grass: "I took to bartending like a duck takes to water."

cisco. At the entrance to California Hall, where the ball was held, plainclothes police photographed everyone who entered the building. Before the evening was over, three attorneys, one woman, and two gay men were arrested and eventually brought to trial. After the jury trials, a \$1.5 million lawsuit was filed against the City and County of San Francisco, its Police Department and Mayor by those involved. The case was settled in court years later. It was San Francisco's Stonewall, and it would change the way police related to

the gay community forever.

Birth of the Castro

From 1964 to 1969, Greta worked at the Missouri Mule on Market Street (now The Detour). At the time, the area was called Eureka Valley. "That's when the Castro was born," Greta remembers. "All the bars there were straight, and it was a little Irish neighborhood. The Missouri Mule was the first bar out there. It was kind of a dump. Toad Hall was the third bar to go into the Castro, and it was the first one that really did something special."

The early days

from *Gay by the Bay*,
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For all its radical rhetoric, gay liberation in the Bay Area relied primarily on picketing, publishing, and public assembly to advance its causes. The first act of violence associated with the organized movement was perpetrated by anti-gay bigots in October 1969. During a peaceful demonstration at the *San Francisco Examiner* offices to protest an article containing offensive stereotypes of gay men, lesbians, and transgendered people, an *Examiner* employee leaned out of a second story window and heaved a bag of printer's ink onto the protesters below. As angry demonstrators began using the ink to write "Fuck the Examiner" and "Gay is Good" on the building's walls, police moved in to make arrests and a riot ensued.

One demonstrator had his teeth kicked out by rampaging officers, while another was charged with obstructing traffic for falling down in the street while police beat her. The attack on the demonstrators sparked another protest the next day at City Hall, where a handful of activists shouting "Power to the People" staged a successful sit-in at the mayor's office before being taken into custody.

The gay liberation movement sought to align itself with other progressive social movements that fought dominance based on race and gender, but it all too often reproduced the very oppression it ostensibly sought to overturn. Although many people of color participated in gay liberation, the movement remained predominantly white. Queers of color often did not have the opportunity to address issues of sexuality in isolation from their other concerns and, unlike many whites, could not make being gay the principal focus of their struggles. Moreover, gay and lesbian culture could be every bit as racist as the dominant society. Just because white queers were learning to resist one form of oppression that personally affected them did not guarantee they understood their role in perpetuating other forms of oppression.

The rise of a separatist lesbian feminist movement reflected similar issues. Within the homophile movement, women and men had tended to work in parallel, and the most radical thrust of gay liberation had always addressed women's issues. But with the emergence of a powerful feminist movement in 1969 and 1970, some lesbians began to forge alliances with other women's groups. This was partly a response to the masculinist biases of the sexual revolution. Many radical males simply failed to compre-



Cleopatra Norton: Jose Sarria of Black Cat fame circa 1965.

hend that the open expression of sexuality might have different implications for women than it did for men.

While it would not be accurate to characterize all feminism as implicitly supportive of lesbianism (or lesbianism as implicitly feminist), it would be fair to say that shared experiences of oppression based on gender enabled lesbian feminists to find more in common with other politicized women than most gay men did with other males.

Lesbians made important contributions to the distinctive women's culture that blossomed in the early 1970s, a culture with its own music, literature, social theories, gathering places, com-

Toad Hall is now the Phoenix. They put money into it and made it comfortable, painted it and carpeted the floor. It was a cocktail lounge. Many of the places were just dumps. In lots of cases the bars were owned by straight people who were just in it for a buck, to be perfectly frank. Most of the guys I worked for were straight. What was special about Toad Hall is that it was owned by gay people."

Suddenly a puzzled look comes over Greta's face: "It seemed that one day I closed my door, and I opened it up, and there was the Castro."

Working behind a bar provided her livelihood, but Greta's contribution to the gay community of San Francisco reaches farther afield. She was one of the founding members of The Tavern Guild, was part of the Board of Directors of the early Cable Car Awards and, in 1976, was appointed The Queen Mother of All California by the Imperial Court of Emperors and Empresses.

Approaching 65, Greta says, "I took to bartending like a duck takes to water. I've done this for 37 years, so I must have done something right. My feeling now is the same as in the beginning. I love being around people, I love having a good time, be it in a sing-along piano bar or just being a bartender in a neighborhood place. I have had a wonderful run, wonderful run."

A good friend recently told Greta, "You wear this bar very well." Greta then said, "Thank you, I like that. Let that be my epitaph, 'She wore that bar very well.'"

munity publications, fairs, and festivals. Olivia Records, the women's recording label based in Oakland, characterized the women's movement in its heyday. The Women's Building in the Mission District was first conceived in the 1970s and continues to embody the ethos of the women's movement today. Separatist culture provided many women with an opportunity to gain economic independence by learning to work in trades from which they had traditionally been excluded; it helped them organize for their own physical self-defense, and it gave many their first glimpse of what childbirth and child rearing might look

page 35 ►

25 YEARS

Publisher Bob Ross looks back on 25 years of the Bay Area Reporter

by Tavo Amador

Since he founded the Bay Area Reporter 25 years ago, publisher Bob Ross, 62, has directed its evolution from just another "typical bar rag" to a respected, widely-read, and influential weekly. It's an accomplishment of which he is justifiably proud.

Recently, Ross met with me in his office behind B.A.R.'s Ninth Street entrance. It's a tidy, well-furnished space, holding books, travel mementos, and displaying evidence of his political role in the community. A picture of Senator Dianne Feinstein, part of a document naming him a member of her "California Cabinet," catches the visitor's eye.

Independent marketing and auditing studies estimate B.A.R.'s readership at 135,000. The newspaper's geographic coverage ranges from Monterey to the Russian River, from Modesto to Sacramento, and it has same-day delivery to 44 cities. Its typical print runs of 37,500 result in fewer than 100 returns, says Ross. (During the summer months 40,000 copies are printed, and the total reaches 50,000 for Gay Pride Week.) "Politicians compete for our endorsements, as do sponsors and opponents of local and state ballot propositions."

Originally from Brooklyn, New York, Ross is a distinguished-looking man with steel-streaked dark hair, disarming brown eyes, and a relaxed manner. He takes the B.A.R.'s political responsibili-

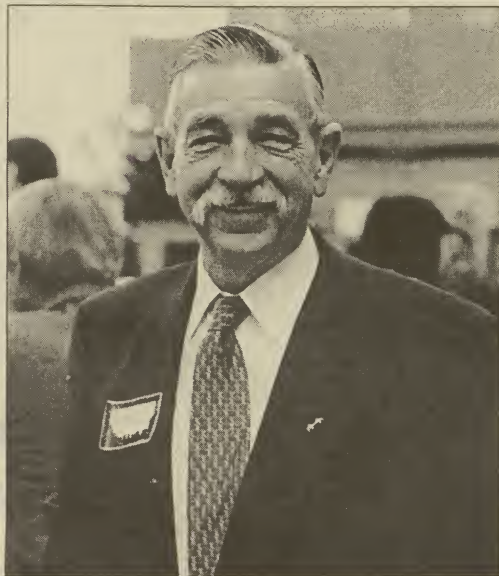
ties "very seriously. My news editor, reporters and I discuss each candidate, issue, proposition, arrive at a consensus, and then publish our recommendations." That these recommendations carry some weight with voters is evidenced by the number of B.A.R. ballot inserts found in local polling places at the end of each election day.

But politics is only one aspect of what the B.A.R. is about. "We cover health issues extensively," says Ross. "Gay men's health, women's health, seniors' health." It's also about "accurate and comprehensive reporting of issues concerning gays and lesbians, our families, and our friends. It's about covering entertainment that has a direct gay and lesbian sensibility, but which is often ignored by the mainstream press."

The two biggest problems B.A.R. faces today, says Ross, are "the unpredictable rise of newsprint prices," a concern he shares with every newspaper in the country, and which has delayed plans to increase print runs, and "the straight press using our stories but not giving us credit for them." The latter is the bigger problem and Ross admits there is no easy solution. (In one instance, he called a leading "mainstream" newspaper and got them to stop using uncredited material from the B.A.R.)

Ross, who has been in San Francisco since leaving the Navy in 1956, worked in the restaurant business before starting up the B.A.R. He admits he could not have foreseen how much the newspaper would change since its founding, or how active a role he would play in it. "We didn't make any money for about eight or nine years, and I didn't pay too much attention to it as a business," he says. "Then, one day, one of my editors asked me how much money I had tied up in the paper. I didn't know. When my accountant told me, I was surprised and decided to get much more involved."

His main purpose in starting the newspaper was to "correct



Bob Ross: "We're a major source of information for gays all over the world."

misinformation" about the gay community. "Although I had been involved in publishing the Tavern Guild's Newsletter, I really had no prior publishing experience," says Ross. "In the first few years, other bar rags, like the ADZ Gazette and Kalendar were around, but they seemed to focus on criticizing everything." Still, it took B.A.R. a while to make an impact. Limited initial print runs of 5,000 had many returns.

More dynamic, more involved

Today, B.A.R. has a small, paid, professional staff. The newspaper has grown more dynamic in the last 15 years and has been actively involved in making positive changes both in the gay and lesbian community and beyond. Early on, for example, the news-

paper focused on police procedures, and was instrumental in bringing gays and lesbians into the police force, ending a long tradition of harassment and abuse. That involvement eventually reduced police homophobia, and, in that regard, San Francisco serves as a model for other police departments around the country.

"Equally important," says Ross, "it has helped other minority communities in their relationship with the police. Individual police officers are now much less likely to abuse minorities. I'm not saying it no longer occurs, but it is much less frequent."

Ross, who is partial to cigars and caviar, is upbeat about the future of the B.A.R. "Right now we're a major source of information for gays all over the world. Health clinics around the country

subscribe to B.A.R. — we're the best place to get current information about AIDS. Currently, that's our main focus." The paper is also changing with the times. "We're on the Web and will be fully webbed by April 25." B.A.R. also serves as a "watchdog for the huge AIDS bureaucracy that has developed. Some of the organizations are good, others less so. We investigate things very carefully and let people know the truth."

AIDS, of course, is the most important issue B.A.R. has covered in its unbroken quarter-century of publishing. "AIDS has brought a change from the hedonistic, party-all-night-every-night '70s," he says. "But I'm concerned about young people. They often feel invincible and may behave in risky ways. Nothing would sadden me more than to see another epidemic, this one hitting the younger generation."

Just as AIDS has gone from being a "gay disease" to something that affects every community, so the readership of the B.A.R. has also changed. It is now involved in issues regarding child care, for example, and has a strong readership among seniors, especially older women. It can be found on racks all over San Francisco. In a sense, the paper has become woven into the fabric of the greater Northern California area, and in doing so reflects Ross himself, who is involved in many organizations and serves on several boards and committees. He is, for example, a director of the Golden Gate Bridge District, the first openly gay person to serve in that capacity. He is also Vice-President of Meals-On-Wheels, which provides hot, nutritious meals to house-bound seniors. He will become president of that organization in July.

Through his involvement in so many different organizations, Ross shows how much in common gay people have with everyone else. And in doing so he continues the tradition of bridge-building of Harvey Milk, who was a close personal friend. "I helped raise most of the money for Harvey's campaign," says Ross. "Harvey forged links between the gay community and other minority groups who had been ignored by the political establishment. He came out and said, 'Just because we're gay or lesbian, doesn't mean we can't hold political office.' Look around today. Despite the Christian crazies, there are openly gay people occupying public positions all over the country. We are showing mainstream America they have nothing to fear — and much to gain — by allowing us to serve in our communities. It spooks the hell out of right-wing fundamentalists — but the more they demonize us, the more we show them that we're here to stay and that we're not giving up the gains made in the last 20 years."

Remaining an active part of the community is what B.A.R. is all about. It's clear Ross believes you don't have to give up anything when you are part of the world around you. By joining in, you can influence it and help change things. That may be too mainstream, too moderate for some people, but Ross has shown it gets the job done. ▼

The early days

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like outside the context of the patriarchal nuclear family.

The consolidation of a feminist alliance between lesbians and straight women depended on a gender ideology that regarded gender itself as inherently oppressive. The task of women's liberation was thus to overthrow the gender system and to open up for both women and men new possibilities for attaining a more fully human form of personhood. One of the repercussions of this new vision was the marginalization of traditional butch/femme roles in the lesbian community and the disparagement of drag among gay men.

Transsexuals suffered, too, often being ostracized by women's groups due to the belief that transsexuals perpetrated the very gender stereotypes that needed to be overthrown. Being driven to the periphery of lesbian and gay culture accelerated the formation of a distinctive transgender community in the years that followed. Not all elements of the queer community embraced the new gender ideology, however, or adhered to a standard of political correctness that mandated one proper response to gender-based oppression. Radical "genderfuck" groups like the Cockettes, the Angels of Light, and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence offered another, more playful, approach to resisting the coerciveness of the gender system. ▼



The way we were: Cover girl Dianne Feinstein and some early issues of the paper.

FLASHBACK

Our first editorial

Dear Reader,
Thank you for picking up a copy of the *Bay Area Reporter*. We sincerely hope that it pleases you, and that you will look forward to future issues.

The editors are striving to bring you a paper of news, information, and comedy. As you see we will have film reviews, horoscopes, camp articles as well as all serious news affecting our Bay Area community.

This publication is in no way connected with any organization and will publish the views and thoughts of all groups. This paper will also try to help bridge the communication gap that seems to exist between groups in our own community.

With this thought in mind the Editors solicit all your comments, both good and bad. You are our readers, and as such have a right to honest opinions and criticisms.

This paper is brought to you by our advertisers, who by advertising herein both honor and appreciate your patronage. Our community is but a small segment of a large metropolitan complex, whose citizens for the most part could care less about our welfare, so support our own who do care.

Thank you again.
The Editors.

Reprinted from the *Bay Area Reporter*, Vol. 1, Issue 1, April 1, 1971.

Gay population
at 90,000 plus

by Dennis Conkin

When the premiere issue of the bi-weekly *Bay Area Reporter* hit the gay bars and other venues on April 1, 1971, co-publishers Bob Ross and Paul Bentley promised readers news, information and entertainment. [See related stories.]

Already decades old and well-established, the San Francisco lesbian and gay population estimates were topping the 90,000 mark, and the *Bay Area Reporter* was reminding readers of the power of the gay vote, which politicians were beginning to court.

President of the Board of Supervisors Dianne Feinstein was running for mayor and made a campaign question-and-answer stop at the Society For Individual Rights, a pioneering gay membership group.

Feinstein told the 300 people who attended the session that she did not support legalizing marriage for gay and lesbian couples and that she was opposed to relaxing laws against prostitution, and she berated owners of sex businesses such as adult bookstores and porno movie houses.

In June 1971, local gay activists held a picket and protest at the Federal Building over the federal government's practice of excluding lesbian or gay employees from employment.

Activists passed out leaflets identifying themselves as openly gay people applying for federal jobs as they stood inside the doors of the IRS and federal job centers. Two people were arrested, and the event was reported by every television station and newspaper.

Although there was no gay pride parade in 1971, Gay Pride Week festivities included a march and rally to Sacramento in support of Assembly Bill 437, a proposed measure by Assemblyman Willie Brown that would legalize consenting same-sex acts between



So '70s! Empress Crystal (with David Hamilton) in the dress - the swans are made entirely of seed pearls.

adults.

Two months after the Sacramento rally, San Francisco Mayor Joseph Alioto vetoed a Board of Supervisors resolution endorsing consenting same-sex acts.

In October, according to press accounts, a United States District Court judge ruled the United

State Department of Defense could not ask employees questions about their sex lives, or refuse to issue security clearances because an employee refused to answer such questions. The ruling concerned three cases, including that of gay San Francisco scientist Richard Gayer. ▼

**Theatre
Rhinos**
Congratulates the
Bay Area Reporter
on 25 years
of supporting
the gay arts



EMPEROR 1 MARCUS
&
CAMPAIGN MANAGER
DEWEY HARRINGTON

1972

Confessions

◀ page 33

Carnivals were recounted. The birth and flourishing of the Imperial Court system and the reigns of our glittering emperors and empresses were lovingly chronicled. The emergence and lively activities of our proud and strong leather community were touted by the redoubtable Mr. Marcus. Community fundraisers and individual benefits of every conceivable kind were publicized and supported.

Community forums and the birth of civil rights organizations such as Bay Area Gay Liberation (BAGL) and the moderate Society for Individual Rights (SIR), and the antics of our various partisan political clubs were vigorously recounted. The stirrings of activism in the lesbian community and an explosion of lesbian visibility were highlighted. It has been quite a quarter century!

When lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered people faced organized oppression such as Prop. 6, the anti-gay teacher Briggs Initiative, the *B.A.R.* was a

powerful voice rallying our communities to organize and defend ourselves. Queer teachers organized the Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators (BAN-GLE) and got needed support in the paper. The *Bay Area Reporter's* writers took on Anita Bryant and all of the predictable, pathetic, and sad homophobes who have followed her path of bigotry and hate mongering into the '90s.

During our continuing struggle against HIV/AIDS, the *B.A.R.* provided coverage of the epidemic from its first blows. The vale of travail which the gay community has experienced for the past fifteen years can be traced in the weekly issues of the *Bay Area Reporter*. Its pioneering obituary policy brought to life in death many of those unheralded people whose beautiful individuality built our communities.

The infamous *B.A.R.* Letters to the Editor, perennial favorites of *B.A.R.* aficionados, frequently offer barbed wit, witless ranting, warm congratulations, vile epithets, poetic doggerel, blood-boiling spleen, and queer arguments

of breath-taking audacity. Its endlessly entertaining arts and letters pages provide a rich window into our very queer culture. The *B.A.R.* has introduced us to our poets, wags, wits, singers, writers, painters, thinkers, and artists who have sustained our culture. Its entertainment pages have recorded and given birth to legions of pioneers in queer comedy, lesbian and gay theater, poetry, photography, graphic arts and painting.

From the earliest days of gay softball through the struggles and triumphs of the Gay Games, the *Bay Area Reporter* covered all the bases of lesbian and gay sports, from archery to wrestling. *B.A.R.* writers shattered many myths about gays and sports.

Today, the *Bay Area Reporter* at the beginning of its Silver Anniversary year not only speaks to our communities it also has not infrequently informed the wider "straight" world about us, our lives, and our communities. What adventures and trials and achievements lie before us we will have to wait until next week's *B.A.R.* to find out. ▼



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Lips and leather



The B.A.R.'s longest-running columnists, Sweet Lips (left) and Mr. Marcus, express their deep abiding affection for one another in a tender moment recorded for posterity more years ago than either would like to admit. Together the two have almost a half-century of service in the trenches of gay journalism.

Picket lines give way to zaps

by Dennis Conkin

Three years after Stonewall, the gay revolution was in full tilt boogie in San Francisco. Two decades of gay civil rights efforts — spearheaded by groups such as the League for Civic Education, Daughters of Bilitis, SIR, the Mattachine Society, and other groups — had become increasingly activist.

Picket lines gave way to zaps, sit-ins, and direct challenges to the existing power bases, gay or straight. Gay activists and militants squared off with establishment gays and often each other. Gay radicals cast a curious eye at the drag and leather set. Lesbian feminists questioned gay male privilege — and everyone, it seemed, questioned gay hippies.

On January 15, 30 "noisy demonstrators" zapped the \$12-a-plate fundraiser for state Assemblyman Willie Brown held by the Society For Individual Rights. The "gay militants" were angry because they had been excluded from a pre-dinner sex law reform conference. The activists claimed that Brown's proposed Assembly Bill 437 decriminalizing consensual sex acts was "a useless activity that would not end the perse-



Before there were gym bunnies: The Beaux Arts Ball lineup in 1972.

cution of gays."

Felony oral copulation or sodomy convictions brought a one-year-to-life sentence in state prison. The *Bay Area Reporter* detailed the story of one young man sentenced to a year-to-life in the Vacaville penitentiary for lewd and lascivious conduct — after his landlady peeked through a bathroom keyhole, observed him masturbating behind locked doors, and called police.

In March, when the United Crusade (later to become United Way) declined a \$49,000 grant to establish a lesbian and gay community center, their annual meeting was zapped by 150 activists. Demonstrators took over the microphone, held a kiss-in, and elected its own mock United Bay Area Crusade. The police riot squad was called.

In a historic moment that was televised nationally, Alice B. Tok-

las Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club co-founder Jim Foster gave a speech pleading for gay rights to delegates at the Democratic National Convention in Miami, Florida.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors outlawed job discrimination based on sexual orientation. On June 25, the first San Francisco gay pride parade was held, and 30,000 people lined the downtown parade route and watched as an estimated 3,000 participants in floats and contingents rolled down Market Street.

But for all the strides the burgeoning lesbian and gay community were making, anti-gay hatred remained a daily reality.

In July, an arsonist torched the Society For Individual Rights Center on Sixth Street and caused an estimated \$35,000 in damage. Despite the severe damage, it reopened in November. ▼

On your 25th Anniversary,

You made the silver!
We foresee gold in your future!

Congratulations!

The Council of Emperors, The Council of Empresses
and The Imperial Council of San Francisco, Inc.



In our future and tradition, we present the Investiture of
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Coming
This Year:

Mr/Miss
Cowboy/Cowgirl
Contest

Mr/Miss
Tavern Guild
Contest

Mr/Miss Gay
San Francisco
Pageant



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
BAY AREA REPORTER AND BOB ROSS
FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO OUR COMMUNITY.

**EMPRESS 1. JOSE
THE WIDOW NORTON**

Crackdown on gay prostitution

by Dennis Conkin

The beginning of 1973 found that although straight politicians continued to court the growing lesbian and gay vote, the local police teamed up with leading hotels for a crackdown on gay prostitution.

State Senator George Moscone, a former supervisor, was a featured guest at a January membership meeting of the Noe Street headquarters of the fledgling Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club.

But even while Moscone was meeting with politically-minded gays and lesbians, the police were conducting surveillance and stings of gay prostitutes in cooperation with the Mark Hopkins, the Hilton, and other leading hotels.

The vice squad would call models from newspaper ads, including the *Bay Area Reporter*, and invite them to their hotel rooms. Once inside, if the models offered sex in exchange for cash, they were arrested.

As the cops were cracking down on sex workers, go-go dancers at the Gaslight, a popular gay bar on Valencia Street, were cleared on charges of indecent exposure and procuring after a Municipal Court judge tossed out the charges and ruled that dancing naked was not illegal.

Anti-lesbian and gay job discrimination was the focus of a March 1973 zap by activists, who held a multi-stop action along a two-mile Civic Center-area route. Activists hit the Hilton Hotel garage, police substation, the Bank of America, and the Federal Building, and then made their way to anti-gay Mayor Joseph Alioto's office. The protesters met with an Alioto aide, made their way to the Sheriff's office, and then held a sit-in in Senator Milton Marks's office.

A month later, activists held a major protest at Pacific Telephone and Telegraph, which refused to



The Central Station baseball team played against our side.

hire openly lesbian and gay people and fired employees if it discovered they were gay.

And although politics was important, there were times when it took a back seat to recreation — such as the annual 1973 Tricycle Race, sponsored by The Mint and other gay bars, which drew more than 1,000 people.

The same day 10,000 people were marching in San Francisco's June 24 Gay Pride Day festivities, 29 patrons of The Upstairs, a popular New Orleans gay bar, perished in an arsonist's fire. Fifteen more were seriously injured — including a pastor and members of the New Orleans MCC, which was meeting in a hall above the bar.

As the San Francisco gay and lesbian community continued to grow, leaders began to try to respond to its needs. A meeting was held about starting a gay-positive community mental health program known as Operation Concern that would be staffed with lesbian and gay therapists and counselors.

A brilliant young social psychologist and epidemiologist named John Newmeyer issued a warning about the dangers of

methaqualone — or Quaaludes — a hypnotic sedative drug that was extremely popular in the community.

Harvey Milk made his first run for supervisor, and lost.

By December, according to one B.A.R. account, relations between gays and police had soothed a bit. Police Chief Don Scott threw out the first ball in a softball game between officers from Central Station and the gay community softball team. More than \$1,000 was raised for charity. ▼

1973

FLASHBACK

Gays & Wounded Knee

The San Francisco Bay Area Ad-Hoc Committee for Gay Solidarity with the Independent Oglala Nation has been circulating petitions in support of the struggle of the American Indians in the past week. The Ad-Hoc SF Committee is headed up by Rick Hansen, a member of the San Franciscans, and Aubrey Bailey, a member of S.I.R.

The petition reads as follows: "We, the undersigned members of the Gay Community, an oppressed people, seeking our liberation, do hereby affirm and declare our solidarity with and support of the American Indian Movement (AIM) and the Independent Oglala Nation (Wounded Knee, South Dakota) at this time of their liberation struggle. The struggle of your people for freedom and self-determination is also the struggle of our people, and we stand united with you at this time. For the life, power, peace, joy, and freedom of all the people!"

If you desire to sign the petition you may do so at either the S.I.R. Community Center; Emmaus House Drop-in Center, 618 Schrader; Helping Hands Gay Community Service Center, 225 Turk; or pick one up at the Eddy-Mason Barber Shop, 131 Eddy, from Aubrey Bailey. ▼

Reprinted from the *Bay Area Reporter*, April 18, 1973.

CONGRATULATIONS ON 25 YEARS TO THE BAY AREA REPORTER

from

A-Unique Chef
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Sweet Lips

Thanks
Bob Ross
and the staff of the

BAY AREA REPORTER

for
twenty-five years
of service to the
community

*To Bob Ross and All The Staff
Congratulations on
Your 25 Years
of Community Service!!!!*



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Mistress Mint

Charlotte Coleman remembers

by Mary Richards

The history of bars in San Francisco could not be told without a few remarks from Charlotte Coleman, who has probably opened more bars than any other woman in the history of our city. She's still holding court today at Charpe's Bar & Grill on Gough Street.

In 1959, with a mere \$1,000, Coleman opened what may have been one of the first lesbian-owned bars in the world — The Front, located at Front & Jackson Streets, not far from the infamous Black Cat.

"Things were cheap in those days," she reflected during a recent interview. "On Mondays we had 10-cent draft beer for women. They didn't have that much money to spend, and boy, women get into fights. I used to be in the middle, breaking people up. I had more beer poured over my head than you can imagine."

"It was a lot of fun, but it was hard."

In the late '50s and early '60s, owners of gay and lesbian bars had to contend with the all-pow-

erful Alcohol & Beverage Control (ABC), usually with disastrous results. Charlotte recalled that "those were the days when we were hassled to death by the San Francisco Police Department and the ABC."

"I lost my license down there for nothing. My bartender was seen putting the perfume Tabu behind the ear of a male customer. That was a morals charge."

"Boy, women get into fights. I used to be in the middle, breaking people up." — Charlotte Coleman

We had a costume party and one man came in with silver slippers. That was a morals charge. So, by the time they brought the charges against you, they had 50, 60 or 70 of those, and there's no way to dispute it. They took my license."

In 1962, Charlotte, undaunted, opened The Golden Cask at Haight Street near the Panhandle. This time, thinking she would foil the authorities, the license to the restaurant and bar was put in the

name of her friend, Peggy Forster.

"When I went to The Golden Cask," Charlotte said, "they were still harassing us. We were advertising that the restaurant was going to open on such and such a date, and Peggy was tending bar. They waited until the middle of the grand opening, and then about six patrol cars and two paddy wagons showed up. They arrested her for having a ticket

they said she hadn't paid from the year before. They didn't arrest anyone else, just her."

Were Charlotte and Peggy scared? "No," Charlotte recalled with a laugh. "I was mad."

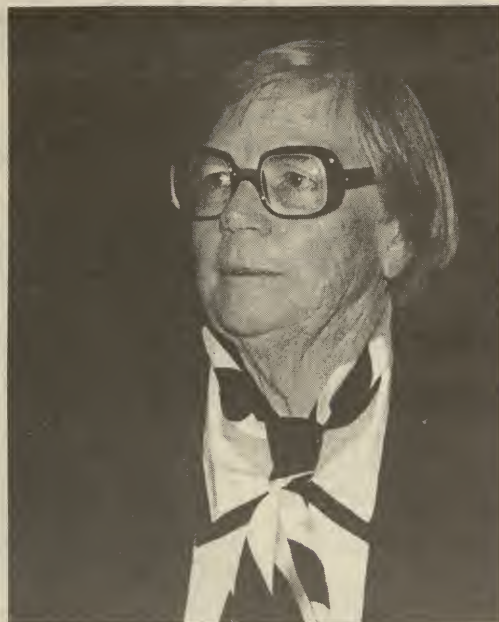
The Mint

In 1969 Charlotte bought The Mint on Market Street, which she owned until 1975. During those years, the Castro was becoming the preeminent gay district of San Francisco, and The Mint was part of it. "When you first start living here," Charlotte remembered, "you have all kinds of ideas and do all kinds of things, but by that time I didn't have any more ideas." She decided to let her employees think up their own clever ways to celebrate the holidays and amuse the fickle public. Memorial Day was Les Balmain's holiday, so he started the Great Tricycle Race.

Even after Charlotte sold the bar, the tradition continued. For 23 years people have donned outrageous costumes to ride their silly tricycles to all the gay bars in town, finishing at a huge celebration at the Mint. Along the way the riders have raised thousands of dollars for charity.

"We'd raise money in those days for Guide Dogs for The Blind," Charlotte said. "I figured [the police] weren't going to arrest me for doing that. It wasn't a big moneymaker, but we raised enough money to buy one dog every year."

Over the years, Charlotte and her partners have bought and sold various bars and businesses in San Francisco. One of her favorite enterprises was Gilmore's. For 14 years this popular neighborhood



Charlotte Coleman: "It was a lot of fun, but it was hard."

bar welcomed people to the comfortable corner at Hyde & California. "We sold that about three years ago," Charlotte recalled. "It was an easygoing, good bar. A lot of older, straight neighborhood people came in after we bought it, and we thought they wouldn't come back much. But they said they had more fun when the gays owned it than when Mr. Gilmore owned it."

When she was young and living on the East Coast, Charlotte remembers keeping a radio hidden next to her bed so she could listen to music after her bedtime.

She loved listening to the broadcasts from The Top of the Mark in San Francisco. She was determined then that one day she would move here. And she did. Over the years, Charlotte has contributed to the strength and growth of the gay community in San Francisco. She served on the Board of the Tavern Guild, was treasurer for the first Gay Games, and was a founding member of the first gay bank in the world, Atlas Savings & Loan.

At age 72, she is still going strong, and she is still young at heart. ▼

Dorlene/Photo Graphics

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A B.A.R. CONTEST

Remember your history

Can you match these bars ... with these locations?

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. The Mistake | A.) 10 Sanchez |
| 2. Orpheum Circus | B.) 1582 Folsom Street |
| 3. Magic Garden | C.) 330 Mason |
| 4. Cloud 7 | D.) 1188 Market Street |
| 5. Dead End | E.) 4146 18th Street |
| 6. Latex Lily's Saloon | F.) 2348 Market Street |
| 7. Scott's Pit | G.) 1501 Folsom Street |
| 8. The Fickle Fox | H.) 209 Stevenson |
| 9. The House of Harmony | I.) 1884 Market Street |
| 10. The Honeybucket | J.) 2360 Polk Street |
| 11. Tower Lounge | K.) 621 Gough |
| 12. Leonarda's | L.) 141 Mason |
| 13. The Libra | M.) 16 Leland Avenue |
| 14. Frolic Room | N.) 937 Cole |
| 15. Opera Club | O.) 278 11th Street |
| 16. The Levee | P.) 2237 Powell |
| 17. Grandma's House | Q.) 3988 18th Street |
| 18. Fe-Be's | R.) 842 Valencia |
| 19. Covered Wagon | S.) 1840 Haight Street |
| 20. The Fantasy | T.) 298 Sixth Street |
| 21. The Corner | U.) 1898 Folsom Street |
| 22. The Maple Leaf | V.) 1312 Polk Street |
| 23. Roundup | W.) 987 Embarcadero |
| 24. The Mule | X.) 1548 Polk Street |
| 25. Maud's Study | Y.) 1488 Pine Street |
| 26. Jackson's | Z.) 135 12th Street, Oakland |

Write the letters to your answers (or guesses) in order from 1-25. (To give you a head start, we'll tell you the answer to 1 is "3988 18th Street," so your list should begin with the letter "Q.") Send them in with your name and address to the Bay Area Reporter, Bar Contest, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco CA 94102. The first 25 people to do it correctly will receive a B.A.R. T-shirt of the highest quality.

APA: Gayness no disorder

by Dennis Conkin

The kick-off issue of the *Bay Area Reporter* for 1974 announced that the American Psychiatric Association had voted to remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders — and passed a resolution urging the repeal of all local and state sodomy laws.

But, just as in present times, such measures were looked on with disfavor by anti-gay right-wing religious zealots and politicians, and the paper's sixth issue reported that Senate Bill 39 had passed the Senate and was headed for the Assembly. The measure would have made felony oral copulation and sodomy legal for heterosexuals but illegal for homosexuals. The bill proposed penalties from six months to five years in state prison and fines of \$5,000 for offenders.

Members of the Tavern Guild, a lesbian and gay bar owners group, met with the state Alcohol and Beverage control, where they were informed that gay papers and magazines which featured nudes were not allowed in bars. The ABC said that while it would not cite owners for same-sex pecks on the cheeks, same sex kissing between bar patrons was definitely a no-no.

As the June 1974 elections neared, the *Bay Area Reporter* ran a front-page article by Harvey

Milk that urged readers to vote for Father Eugene Boyle, an activist Roman Catholic priest, for the 16th Assembly District. Milk also announced that he was starting a gay voters group, and sought 100 gay volunteers to meet at his Castro Street camera shop, to start the project by registering voters. In addition to his bi-week-

ly commentary and opinion, eventually dubbed "the Milk Forum," the gay activist periodically reported for the newspaper.

Continuing its tradition of providing news readers could use, the B.A.R. issued a public health announcement concerning a major outbreak of Shigella, a dangerous form of dysentery, among gay men. Readers were advised against sexual practices that would spread the infection.

Two gay murders were reported by the paper. Well-known female impersonator Jae Stevens, 27, was stabbed to death on June 24 at Spreckels Lake in Golden Gate Park. Edy La Fleur was shot to death in an Oakland gay bar, after he chased a thief who had robbed owner Val Souza of \$350.

The first Castro Street Fair was held on August 18. Three weeks later community-police relations soured when police arrested 14 gay men for blocking the sidewalk on Castro Street and charged them with loitering. The incident stemmed from the arrest of one



Not crazy, just campy: Taking the trolley was such a drag.

gay man in front of Cliff's Variety, and when the other men who observed the arrest refused to move, they were also arrested. One of the arresting officers, according to a news account by Harvey Milk, beat and kicked some of the men who were arrested.

The same weekend, 19 gay men were arrested by police at Collingwood Park. All pleaded innocent to charges and demanded jury trials. All the charges were eventually dismissed.

An episode of Marcus Welby

MD on ABC that dealt with the rape of a 14-year-old boy by his science teacher was condemned by the National Gay Task Force for perpetuating stereotypes that gays preyed on children. Gay activists picketed local KGO-TV, which carried the segment.

A month later, in November, gay labor activists announced that they would join a boycott of Adolph Coors brewing company after the firm rejected the Teamster's Union affirmative action policy. ▼

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Bill legalizes consenting sex acts

by Dennis Conkin

By 1975, San Francisco lesbian and gay political efforts for civil rights and legislative justice were showing growing signs of success.

Two years after a last-minute and failed 1973 bid for a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Harvey Milk announced that he would try again for a seat on the board.

Assembly Bill 489, which legalized consenting sex acts between same sex partners in California, became law in April, but wouldn't take effect until January, 1976. A referendum to repeal the measure was promptly launched by Christian zealots.

1975

group called Bay Area Gay Liberation, the successor to several Gay Liberation Front era progressive efforts, had formed at the beginning of the year. 150 people attended the second BAGL organizing meeting at the First Unitarian Church. The group would focus its activist efforts on police harassment and brutality and media stereotyping of lesbians and gay, and work to pass gay rights legislation.

Gay-bashing and anti-gay violence was on the upswing as the community, estimated at 140,000, expanded. A police community relations coalition was formed in the Eureka Valley neighborhood to respond to the increased incidence of anti-gay violence in the Castro and Market Street area.



The Wizard of Oz company, an Empress Doris production, gave their all to benefit Operation Concern.

In May the San Francisco Board of Supervisors refused to create a lesbian/gay seat on the San Francisco Human Rights Commission – and nixed establishing a lesbian and gay advisory committee to the commission.

But, while the state legislature supported a ban on anti-gay sex laws, equal political representation was apparently a very different matter. In May, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors refused to create a lesbian/gay seat on the San Francisco Human Rights Commission – and nixed establishing a lesbian and gay advisory committee to the commission.

Activists stepped up their political efforts. A political action

The watchdog group also worked with city agencies such as the police and district attorney's office to assist victims of such violence.

The annual Gay Freedom Day Parade drew about 70,000 people as participants, and 10,000 observers. A few months later, 50,000 revelers turned out for Halloween on Polk Street, which police cordoned off for the massive event.

Pro-gay Sheriff Richard Hongisto successfully ran for reelection. Hongisto had long been a strong supporter of the lesbian and gay community. He was opposed by Gene Pratt, an administrative assistant to S.I. Hayakawa, the controversial archconservative president of San Francisco State University.

When the November election results rolled in, Harvey Milk had lost his second bid for a seat on the Board of Supervisors. Milk garnered 50,000 votes, and thanked voters in his bi-weekly *Bay Area Reporter* column, promising he'd keep trying.

Supervisor Dianne Feinstein would have to keep trying as well. Seriously miscalculating the power of the gay vote, the moderate Feinstein failed in her mayoral bid. The B.A.R. endorsed the winning candidate, progressive George Moscone. ▼

HISTORY

The Imperial Monarchs of San Francisco

1965-66: The Absolute 1st Empress, The Widow Norton, Grand Mere, Jose

1967: The Absolute II Empress, Bella

1968: The Absolute III Empress, Shirley

1969: The Absolute IV Empress, Reba

1970: The Absolute V Empress, Willis

1971: The Absolute VI Empress, Cristal

1972: The Absolute VII Empress, Jonni

Emperor I, A.N., Marcus

1973: The Absolute VIII Empress, Maxine

Emperor II, A.N., Russ Higginbotham

1974: The Absolute IX Empress, Frieda

Emperor III, A.N., Bob Cramer

1975: The Absolute X Empress, Doris

Emperor IV, Michael Carlingi

1976: The Absolute XI Empress, Flame

1977: Emperor V, A.N., Hector Navarro

The Absolute XII Empress, Jane Doe

1978: Emperor VI, A.N., Jim Ostland

The Absolute XIII Empress, Char

1979: Emperor VII, A.N., Bob Ross

The Absolute XIV Empress, The Imperial Grandma, Ginger

1980: Emperor VIII, A.N., Chuck Demmon

The Absolute XV Empress, Tendarloin Tessie

1981: Emperor IX, A.N., Bobby Pace

The Absolute Empress, Pushy Phyllis

1982: Emperor X, A.N., Gene Bettis

The Absolute Empress XVII, Mae

1983: Emperor XI, A.N., Tattoo Jim

The Absolute XVIII Empress, Connie

1984: Emperor XII, A.N., Rich Carle

The Absolute XIX Empress, Remy Martin

1985: Emperor XIII, A.N., Ken Wright

The Absolute Empress XX, Sissy Spaceout

1986: Emperor XIV, A.N., Matthew Brown

The Absolute XXI Empress, Sable Clown

1987: Emperor XV, A.N., Patrick McGonigle

The Absolute XXII Empress, Tina Tanner

1988: Emperor XVI, A.N., Steven Rascher

The Absolute XXIII Empress, Lily Street

1989: Emperor XVII, A.N., Exiled, Jerry Coletti

The Absolute XXIV Empress, Pat Montclair

1990: Emperor XVIII, A.N., Simeon; The Absolute XXV Empress, Marlana

1991: Emperor XIX, A.N., Michael Bowman

The Absolute XXVI Empress, Caresse

1992: Emperor XX, A.N., Douglass Stromberg

The Absolute XXVII Empress, Velveta Mozzarella

1993: Emperor XXI, A.N., David Nyberg

The Absolute Empress XXVIII Jackie Reynolds

1994: Emperor XXII, A.N., Chuck Adkins

The Absolute XXIX Empress, Anita Martini

1995: Emperor XXIII, Brian Benamati

The Absolute Empress XXX, Donna Sachet

1996: Reigning Emperor Steve Valone

Reigning Empress Cockatelia

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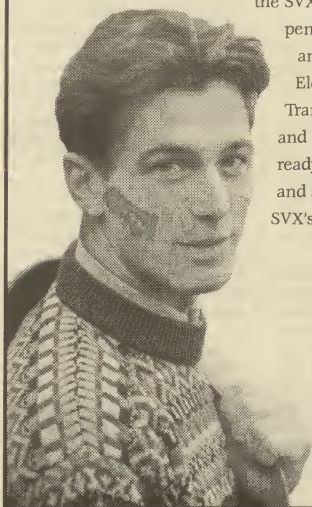
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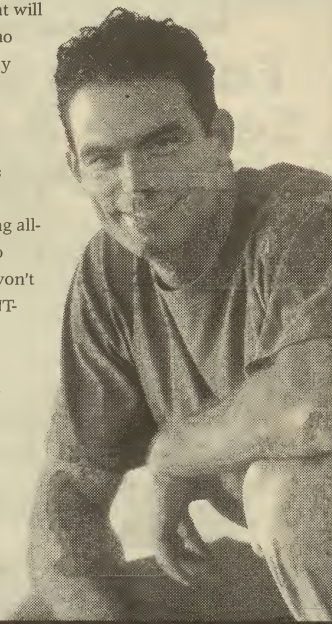
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*MSRP of the Subaru SVX LSi with All-Wheel Drive. Pictured is Subaru SVX LSi. MSRP is \$29,995. Price not including inland transportation, taxes, license and title fees. Dealer's actual price may vary. Certain items shown are optional equipment available at an additional charge. **Always wear seat belts. †Based on R.L. Polk & Co. Registration statistics for calendar year ending 1994.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Statuesque



It's a little-known fact that San Francisco embraced the concept of leather titles long before the International Mr. Leather and International Mr. Drummer contests were introduced in the leather communities in 1979 and 1980, respectively.

One of the city's more famous leather bars, FeBe's at 11th and Folsom streets, held Mr. FeBe's Leather contests in the mid-1970s. The object was to find men who most resembled the bar's logo statue, which it recast in bronze for the trophies.

Only two of the trophies were ever awarded, both to the same man — whose name nobody seems to remember anymore.

Mr. Marcus

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Moscone appoints Milk, then boots him

by Dennis Conkin

In one of his first official acts, Mayor George Moscone appointed Harvey Milk to the San Francisco Board of Permit Appeals early in 1976, but the appointment would prove to be short-lived — and San Francisco Democratic machine politics ruthless — when Moscone fired the gay activist a short time later.

Milk was booted off the board after he announced that he would oppose machine-chosen and machine-anointed Art Agnos for the 16th Assembly District. Agnos was an aide to Assembly Speaker Leo McCarthy.

Moscone replaced Milk with gay attorney and bathhouse owner Rick Stokes. He also appointed lesbian activist and Daughters of Bilitis co-founder Phyllis Martin to the Human Rights Commission. Martin's partner of two decades, Phyllis Lyon, was already serving on the Commission on the Status of Women.

Milk's June 16 bid for the Assembly failed by a close 3,600 votes for a variety of reasons — but one thing was clear from the race. Although they tolerated homosexuals and gave lip service to gay

rights, the city's political power-brokers did not embrace gay rights and didn't want an openly gay man serving in state politics.

In the first official recognition of the festivities by the City and County of San Francisco, Mayor Moscone officially proclaimed the week preceding the annual gay parade as Gay Pride Week. More than 90,000 marchers, and 130 floats and contingents, participated in the parade.

In a case of curious timing, the city's narcotics squad raided the Folsom Street Barracks, a popular South of Market gay baths, on June 25 — but police said it was coincidental and unconnected to the Gay Pride Week festivities or Milk's recent defeat. Sixteen people were arrested, and 60 tabs of LSD were seized, along with a quantity of methamphetamines.

A month later, the Human Rights Commission began hearings about the establishment of a civilian police board that would investigate police misconduct complaints.

Glitter queen extraordinaire Elton John stirred up a frenzy in the press, and among his disbe-

lieving gay fans, when he told an Associated Press reporter in September he was "bisexual" but preferred women as romantic partners.

Four months after the Folsom Street Barracks raid, the bathhouse was gutted by a fire that broke out on the first floor and spread quickly through the three-story wooden structure. More than 100 patrons were in the premises, which had no sprinkler system. Damage was estimated at close to \$200,000.

And at the end of the year, the group Bay Area Gay Liberation was in the news after members set up an information picket at the 8th Street Club Baths, which was accused of discriminating against fat people, people of color, effeminate gays, and others. Well-known gay activist and teacher Hank Wilson was denied admission to the club because he was wearing a BAGL T-shirt, and successfully sued the chain for discrimination under the state's Unruh Civil Rights Act. The club owners foolishly appealed the verdict in Superior Court; they lost and Wilson eventually collected a \$270 judgment. ▼

1976

The Gay Movement... just what is it?

by Harvey Milk,
April 1, 1976

We hear and talk about the Gay Movement. Just what is it? Does it have shape? Goals? There are no solid answers to that many-part question. The term "gay movement" probably has a different meaning to every person. And probably most are correct.

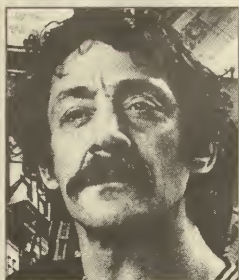
But there apparently is something wrong: we find more back-biting and more energy spent in trying to destroy each other, for whatever reasons. Think of how much better off we would be if we stopped saying what was wrong with others in the movement, and started to just try to show what was positive about each of our own ways.

For when the truth is looked at not one of us really know the complete answer. We can only try the best, and the best way for each of us is not the same for all of us.

It is the tremendous waste of talent, money, and energy that is the real tragedy of the movement.

Two weeks ago a 16-year-old came into my store with a tape recorder. He was going up and down Castro Street, into stores, and asking the owners: "Are you a homosexual store owner?"

He said, "I am a homosexual and I go to school in the East Bay and the students in my class say that homosexuals are sick." Then he asked, "Are you sick?" He wanted to find homosexual (he never used the word gay) store owners



Harvey Milk

who would say that homosexuals were not sick. His premise was that if people had it together to run a business they could not be sick.

I asked him what he wanted. He wants his freedom and an end to discrimination now for himself and for those younger than himself. He was — at that age of 16 — willing to fight the battle by himself! He was indeed a strong person.

But what about the others in other classes who pushed the door tighter on their closets in face of being labeled sick? The gay movement has not succeeded in helping those who are of that age-group who need help the most. Think of what it would be like if all the energy, all the time spent in back-biting, was spent in helping those who are finding their identity!

My concept is for us to use what I learned from the other movements: a steady positive

force. Always trying to build bridges between the communities. Always seeking what should be ours. As I learned from the Black Movement — sitting in the back of the bus is not the answer. Going along for the ride, if it means second class citizenship, is not the way for freedom. I'd rather walk!

I have found there are many people who want to ride in the back of the bus and are satisfied with the crumbs offered. That probably will never get the gay community our freedom.

Freedom will only come when we are willing to fight for ourselves, and not wait and wait and wait for our "friends" to finally maybe give to us what is ours. So for me, I'll not sit in the back of any bus and wait and hope. That might be good for some. That is their way. They may be satisfied with waiting and hoping. That is the "right" way for them.

But for that 16-year-old, I don't think he should go through the hell of being labeled sick — I don't like to see him waiting and hoping. And so I do what I feel most comfortable doing. For I saw that sadness on his face when he entered the shop, and saw the hope he had when he found out others were also fighting. I cannot sit in the comfort of my home and be thankful for what crumbs I have and spend my time back-biting.

I don't think that young person would have been pleased to find out about our "leaders" who spend so much time and energy on personal negative trips. ▼

25 YEARS

Activists fight Bryant's hatred

by Dennis Conkin

Local civil libertarians and sexual freedom proponents were up in arms at the beginning of 1977, after Supervisor Dianne Feinstein proposed banning adult movie theaters and porno stores from operating within 1,000 feet of any private residence – and said she wanted the measure to apply to any theatre that devoted at least ten percent of its presentations to “adult material.”

Feinstein's proposal was given short shrift by Harvey Milk, who attacked her for seeking the gay vote but turning around and targeting gays in a campaign to “clean up the city.” The measure passed a Planning Commission hearing.

And while local activists shook their baffled heads at Feinstein, lesbians and gays around the nation shuddered over a very dark cloud looming on the Florida horizon, as singer and Florida Citrus Commission spokesperson Anita Bryant announced she would launch the “Save Our Children” crusade to overturn a Dade County, Florida gay rights ordinance. Gay rights activists promptly launched a national boycott of Florida orange juice products.

An estimated 53,000 people signed the initiative in Florida, forcing the measure to a vote. Olivio Ramos, a prominent Dade County gay rights activist, committed suicide after appearing in media reports about the need for the protections.

But while the battle was waging in Dade County, the California state Assembly amended marriage laws to prevent same-sex marriages, at the behest of a concerned Orange County county clerk.

By April, tens of thousands of dollars were raised to fight Bryant's actions, at fundraising rallies, dances, and other events around San Francisco. Contingents of activists and concerned citizens – including Sheriff Richard Hongisto – went to Florida to help fight the measure, which had merely banned discrimination in housing and employment on the basis of sexual orientation, but to no avail. Two months later, on June 7, 1977, the Dade County Florida Human Rights Ordinance was repealed by a 2-1 vote.

Less than a month later, city gardener Robert Hillsborough was murdered when he and his lover got out of his car near his home at 19th and Lexington in San Francisco. They had been followed home from a hamburger stand by assailants. Hillsborough refused to fight and was stabbed to death.

Outraged over the murder –



Harvey Milk with cannabis connoisseur Dennis Peron on left.

and by Bryant's anti-gay hatred – more than 250,000 people marched in the annual gay and lesbian pride parade.

Two months later, Bryant gave a deposition to Pride Foundation lawyers after it filed a \$5 million claim against her – plus California state Senator John Briggs, and their organizations – for conspiracy in the Hillsborough murder.

Briggs was sponsoring Proposition 6, a state initiative that would give school boards the right to refuse to hire lesbian and gay teachers or administrators.

By the end of the year, even in the midst of the ugly political climate in which most other events paled and activists were left defiant but exhausted and edgy, there were a few historic gains.

Harvey Milk finally made it to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, as the first openly gay elected official in the state of California.

A month later, *Word Is Out: Stories of Some Of Our Lives*, a two-hour groundbreaking documentary on the lives of lesbians and gays, premiered at the Castro Theatre. The full house of 1,600 patrons stood in a line three blocks long to buy tickets.

Even so, *Good Housekeeping* magazine announced that its readers were having their own sort of love affair with Anita Bryant: they chose her as their woman of the year. ▼

1977

Historic mouthful:

Can you remember who told the *Bay Area Reporter* in 1977, “Homosexuals coming into the gym and working out to see the bodies ... [is] a part of it ... It doesn't bother me at all.”

“What Billie Jean King is for tennis, I am for body building.”

[Answer: Arnold Schwarzenegger]

FLASHBACK

The More Things Change Department

AB607 passes in assembly: No gay marriages

Bruce Nestande's (R-Orange) amendment to the state laws on marriage has passed by a vote of 48 to 16. The “clarification” of the current laws (as its supporters referred to the measure) would outlaw marriages between same-sex couples.

Opponents, including Assemblymen Willie Brown (D-S.F.) and Art Agnos (D-S.F.), called the measure an unfair display of government meddling in the personal lives of citizens. Brown argued in the 20-minute floor debate that instead of adding the phrase “man and woman” to the marriage law, that the word “marriage” itself be stricken and substituted with the clause “a contract between people.” In addition, he stated that withholding marriage licenses interferes with a couple's legal rights in such matters as inheritances and financial responsibility.

Marriages are now governed by a 1971 law that refers to “any person” when describing who is eligible for a marriage license. AB607 would substitute the words “man and woman.”

The bill now goes to the Senate, where its prospects are considered favorable. Sponsor Nestande said the victory “reaffirms that the family is the essence of Western civilization.”

At the same time, the Assembly Judiciary Committee, by an 8 to 3 vote approved a bill that would ease the divorce process for thousands of Californians. The measure introduced by Ken Maddy (R-Fresno) is aimed at low-income couples who can't afford divorce, live apart and then enter into illicit relationships.

To insure that the “family remains the essence of Western civilization,” it appears the California State Assembly is bent on closing the front door at the same time opening the back door. ▼

Reprinted from the *Bay Area Reporter*, April 28, 1977.

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Harvey Milk remembered

by Tavo Amador

On November 27, 1978, the day Harvey Milk and George Moscone were murdered by former Supervisor Dan White, I was in a gift store on 16th Street just off Market Street. I worked there part-time as manager while completing my M.A. at San Francisco State. A friend telephoned to tell me what had happened. I called my lover at home, closed the store, and walked back to our house, going up Market Street to Castro, then on to our place.

I had never met Harvey Milk and we had not voted for him, because when he was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1977, my lover and I were not living in San Francisco. We moved to The City in mid-1978, after 12 years in Marin County.

My recollection of the day is that it was cool and clear. The streets seemed unusually quiet that afternoon, as word of the killings spread. Many businesses had closed. Thinking about it now, I wonder if I would have voted for Harvey, who had been elected without the blessing of the gay political establishment in San Francisco. He had challenged the Burton-Moscone machine, successfully. I like to think I would have, because he was intelligent and articulate. But I also would have voted for Moscone, because he was a supporter of gay rights.

In any case, I felt Milk's death more as that of a neighbor - his Castro Street camera shop had become a familiar landmark in the few months we had lived in the area, and I had seen him more than once on that busy street.

When I got home, my lover and my mother, who was visiting from New York to spend Thanksgiving with us, were watching the television reports. I remember Dianne Feinstein's tremulous announcement of what had happened, her natural dignity and intelligence trying to overcome the horror of what she was saying. It was clear she was wrestling to bring order to chaos, and gave one of the finest and most courageous examples of leadership I have ever seen in American politics.

I don't know how we found out about the candlelight march to City Hall, but I do know that my lover, my mother and I, joined by some friends, participated. The glowing candles somehow balanced the dark silence and briefly negated the numbing sense of loss. Many of the marchers were Milk's friends and political supporters. Many also knew and supported Moscone. My own sense was that the community had lost two leaders, and that my naive optimism about how quickly we as gay people would find tolerance and acceptance, even in "liberal" San Francisco, was permanently shattered. It was the first of many unforeseen obstacles we would have to overcome in the years ahead.

On the other hand, the community demonstrated a remarkable resiliency, as it does today. When, in the wake of the Dan White verdict, we showed our anger, many people were appalled. But I remember my mother recounting a conversation with some of her friends in New York. She said, in effect, "Don't judge them. I was there when the mur-



Harvey Milk at City Hall, three weeks before he was assassinated.

ders took place, and I saw how they reacted. Now some of them are angry and they are right. You can only push people around so

much."

Over the years, I've learned more about Harvey Milk's politics and have come to appreciate

his significance, both locally and nationally. At the same time, my memory of George Moscone has dimmed, which I realize is unfair. Randy Shilts, in his thorough biography, *The Mayor of Castro Street*, points out, correctly I believe, that the life and times of Harvey Milk represent the beginning of a full-fledged gay political activism in San Francisco, one that spread to other major urban centers throughout the country, much as the counter-culture beatniks of the '50s and the hippies of the '60s had. One of Harvey's great legacies is that, in San Francisco at least, gay people no longer have to be single-issue voters, as was demonstrated by the last mayoral election: none of the major candidates was homophobic.

According to Shilts, Harvey was a radical populist who outraged most gay Democratic leaders. He often used a confrontational style, which many found embarrassing. But one aspect of his legacy is that he moved gay politics away from the upper-class male leadership that I identified with. While we were still living in Sausalito, I remember receiving a call from several gay friends with homes in The City and Hillsborough who were appalled at Harvey's victory. I, in turn, pointed out that the election of any committed gay person to public office was a cause for celebration. I believed then, as I do today, that if you lack fundamental civil rights, or if they are threatened, no other issue really

matters.

Harvey Milk made his first trip to San Francisco in 1969. He moved here permanently from New York in 1972 after a career as a Manhattan stockbroker. His first forays into local elective office, starting in 1973, were unsuccessful, in part because he was openly gay and because he would not play ball with the political establishment, gay or straight. In his early campaigns, he followed on the heels - no pun intended - of Jose Sarria, who, in 1961, had been the first openly gay person to run for public office in America, garnering about 7,000 votes in a losing race for the Board of Supervisors.

Shilts says Harvey's 1977 campaign was successful because, by showing how much gay people had in common with other marginalized groups, he connected with the electorate in ways that transcended sexual orientation without minimizing it. In this he differed from his more "orthodox" gay opponent, Rick Stokes. Milk made his homosexuality no more relevant than his eye color. He was an anti-establishment small businessman who understood the needs of his customers and his neighbors. He was eloquent, intelligent, and tireless in his determination to win public office, both as a personal statement and as a landmark achievement for gay people everywhere.

This, of course, doesn't make him ripe for canonization. He

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Making harmony

The SF Gay Men's Chorus first of its kind

by Robert Firpo-Cappiello

Born of the gay liberation movement of the '70s, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus has become something of a permanent fixture in San Francisco's cultural landscape. Yet, despite its high international profile, it has only been 18 years - a blink of an eye in musical history - since band leader John Sims hatched the idea of a chorus made up entirely of gay men.

The year was 1978, a time of ups and downs. Harvey Milk, the first openly gay candidate in a major American election, was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors while singer Anita Bryant led a campaign in Florida to ban homosexual teachers from the classroom. Darkness and light characterized the year, mostly dark, as the year's tragic denouement made evident - on November 27, 1978 both Milk and SF Mayor George Moscone were assassinated.

That night, a group of men gathered on the steps of City Hall to sing in memory of the slain leaders. The mourners who heard a Mendelssohn hymn drift over the stunned crowd that night had no idea they were witnessing the start of something whose repercussions are still being felt today around the world.

The first time, and beyond

Veteran choral member Bob



Trills and thrills: the GMC formed in the wake of Supervisor Milk's murder.

Emery remembers the first official appearance of the Gay Men's Chorus at Everett Middle School in December, 1978. "Nothing can ever match that first time. One hundred and twenty singers ran down the aisle onto an empty stage and sang 'If My Friends Could See Me Now.'"

Some of the older men in the audience who had lived most of their lives in the closet wept openly at the sight and sound of the world's first self-identified gay chorus.

Although Sims was neither a singer nor choral director himself (he was a French horn player), his

idea took root quickly in the community. When Dick Kramer took over the direction of the chorus in 1979, he took the original group of singers and turned them into a group of polished amateurs who performed for an increasingly large audience at

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25 YEARS

Milk, mayor assassinated

by Dennis Conkin

In January, Supervisor-elect Harvey Milk and a cadre of 200 supporters walked the 15 blocks from Castro Street to City Hall for Milk's inauguration ceremony.

Milk's first vote as a member of the board was to cast his vote for Gordon Lau (against Dianne Feinstein) as president of the Board of Supervisors. Nevertheless, Feinstein won the politically powerful post.

Controversy continued over Anita Bryant's anti-gay pogrom. The gay boycott of Florida citrus products led to Bryant's ouster as co-host of the annual Rose Bowl Parade. She was replaced by gay-friendly entertainer Rita Moreno, after NBC decided gay activists would disrupt the parade if Bryant were retained. Moreno had once starred in *The Ritz*, a movie about a gay bathhouse.

And, in the face of Bryant's nationwide crusade, Mayor George Moscone signed San Francisco's Human Rights Ordinance, which banned discrimination in housing and jobs on the basis of sexual orientation.

At the end of January and beginning of February, two events signified a true changing of the guard. The Society for Individual Rights, the once-premiere gay organization, went out of business after 12 years of firsts that included gay dances, gay rights lawsuits, employment service, a monthly magazine for members, and a large community meeting space. Internal problems and the growth of new lesbian and gay social and political action groups led to SIR's dissolution.

But as SIR was folding, the 4,000 square foot Trocadero, Northern California's largest dance hall located at 520 4th

Street, became the city's first all-night gay disco when the Board of Permit Appeals overruled police objections and granted the venue a permit.

Also, the Gay Community Center operated by the Pride Foundation, located at 130 Grove Street, was ordered demolished to erect a parking garage for the Performing Arts Center. The

Center was located in property owned by the city's Redevelopment

Agency. The same day the center received the news to vacate, vandals cut the phone lines and ransacked the site.

Spurred on by Bryant's rhetoric, anti-gay zealots organized the repeals of the Wichita, Kansas gay rights ordinance in May, only eight months after voters passed the measure. And voters in St. Paul, Minnesota also repealed a four-year-old gay rights measure by a 2-1 margin.

The same month, a very embarrassed California Secretary of State March Fong Eu frankly and openly apologized to the lesbian and gay community after she erroneously claimed in a speech that 70 percent of child molestation cases were committed by homosexuals. Fong retracted the misstatement and said that the Los Angeles Police Department, long known for its virulent anti-gay attitude, had supplied the information.

By the time of the annual June Gay Pride festivities, the fight against the anti-gay Briggs Initiative was going strong. The Bay Area Committee Against the Briggs Initiative had organized 12 major action committees and included student, labor, and women's groups.

In what would become a prophetic prelude to a tragedy, only one member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors opposed the routine closure of the

1978



Shock and sadness: The spontaneous candlelight march following the Milk-Moscone assassinations, Nov. 27, 1978.

streets around City Hall and Civic Center for the annual festivities. Most observers simply chalked the objection of Dan White, a former San Francisco police officer, up to mean-spiritedness.

An estimated 300,000 people participated in the annual festivities.

But in the climate of Briggs and Bryant's anti-gay hatred, Healdsburg, California third-grade teacher Larry Berner found himself unwittingly embroiled in

controversy. Berner was mentioned in the California Voters Handbook after his letter to a gay newspaper against the Briggs initiative was picked up by a local daily. After Briggs used Berner's comments as part of his argument against gay teachers, three sets of parents withdrew their kids and a local school district announced its support of anti-gay Prop 6.

Three weeks to the day after the November 6 elections, former San Francisco Supervisor Dan

White — enraged over Mayor Moscone's refusal to reappoint him to the board, and appalled by the gay community's political power — sneaked into City Hall through an unlocked basement window to avoid metal detectors and assassinated Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk execution-style in their offices.

More than 40,000 San Francisco residents marched in mourning from Castro Street to City Hall the night of the tragedy. ▼

Bands and batons

Jon Sims built bridges with music

by Heidi Beeler

This June, 18 years will have passed since Jon Sims first marched the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Band & Twirling Corps down Market Street. The band was the first openly gay musical organization in the world, and under his charismatic leadership, it grew into the continent-wide lesbian and gay music movement that thrives to this day.

Today, led by Artistic Director Nancy Corporon, the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band continues to perform at history-making events, including the 1993 Presidential Inaugural and last week's San Francisco Domestic Partners Ceremony. The following are some of the highlights of our history:

1978:

This was a heady time. Harvey Milk took office as the first openly gay elected official and gay rights issues were at the center of national controversy. After Anita Bryant soured the national orange juice with her landslide victory repealing the Dade County gay rights ordinance, California state senator John Briggs created his own anti-gay initiative to rally conservatives to the voting booth. Proposition 6, nicknamed the Briggs Initiative, would effectively



Baton twirler: The late Jon Sims in front of Davies Symphony Hall.

bar "homosexuals and their supporters" from teaching in California schools. Milk and University of California Professor Sally Gearhart scrambled to organize the Citizens Against Proposition 6 to defeat the homophobic initia-

tive. After two more gay rights ordinances fell in St. Paul and Wichita, hope for a victory against Christian right leaders waned.

Enter a gay music teacher from Kansas who wanted to help, and

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Election night 1978: Harvey Milk (left) with a young Randy Shilts.



A subdued Dianne Feinstein (left) with Milton Marks remembers the slain supervisor.

White gets away with murder

by Dennis Conkin

As the year began, a grieving and angry lesbian and gay community mourned the loss of a leader—and a mayor—at the hands of anti-gay former police officer Dan White. Meanwhile, the entire Bay Area reeled from the political assassinations and the mass murder-suicides of hundreds of former San Franciscans at the People's Temple in Jonestown, Guyana.

The community grew even more outraged after two drunken cops and one of their friends busted up Peg's Place, a Geary Street bar, and started a scuffle with bar owner Lynda Symaco. She was hospitalized for nearly three weeks after being attacked by one of the officers—who was never charged in the incident. Another officer was later convicted of misdemeanor battery for attacking a patron.

Shortly after the beginning of the year, a reward was issued for

state jobs.

San Francisco Metropolitan Community Church raised \$210,000 to buy the former Voice of Pentecost Church at 150 Eureka Street.

By May, the biggest story of the year was underway at 850 Bryant Street. Ex-cop Dan White went on trial for the assassinations of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk; the astounding

manslaughter verdict handed down May 21 started a riot.

The evening the verdict was delivered, thousands of lesbians and gays and their supporters gathered in front of City Hall after a March from the Castro. A dozen police cars were set on fire. Scores of windows at City Hall, the State Building, and surrounding businesses were destroyed.

The police riot squad was called in by Police Chief Charles Gain at the order of Dianne Feinstein, as Supervisor Harry Britt urged people to go home. Super-

icism about the riot by telling the media—and the rest of San Francisco and the entire world—that the gay community had nothing to apologize for.

But District Attorney Joe Freitas said that he would prosecute the 28 people arrested during the riots. Shortly thereafter, Freitas was forced into a run-off for his seat and was booted out of office in disgrace for the flawed prosecution of White.

In September, the California Supreme Court ruled that prosecution for solicitation of sex acts or "lewd and dissolute conduct" was unconstitutional.

Steve Lachs became the first openly gay person appointed to a Los Angeles Superior Court post by Governor Jerry Brown, in October.

The October 24 issue of the B.A.R. reported that 100,000 lesbians and gays had attended the historic March on Washington.

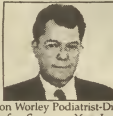
After a year of intensive recruitment, spearheaded by longtime gay rights activist Les Morgan, involving the circulation of 18,000 fliers and 200 recruitment posters, plus interviews with 350

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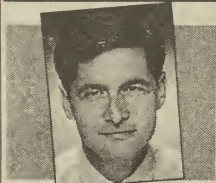
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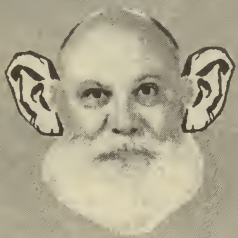
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The San Francisco contingent in the '79 March on Washington keeps its banner high.

information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killers of Tom Gloster, 31, and Richard Neimier, 32, two gay men who frequented South of Market area bars. The men had been killed in remote areas of Red Bluff and Napa. Six weeks later, a soldier who was abducted by Larry Hendricks, a 23-year-old convicted sex offender, shot and killed Hendricks with his own gun. The soldier had been taken to an open grave containing the body of a 21-year-old hitchhiker whom Hendricks had murdered. Forensic tests matched Hendricks's gun to the killings of the two gay men.

Concerned over the increase in anti-gay attacks, a two-month-old group called Community United Against Violence urged in April that lesbians and gays carry and use whistles to summon help when threatened.

Governor Jerry Brown signed a law the same month preventing anti-gay job bias against gays in

information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killers of Tom Gloster, 31, and Richard Neimier, 32, two gay men who frequented South of Market area bars. The men had been killed in remote areas of Red Bluff and Napa. Six weeks later, a soldier who was abducted by Larry Hendricks, a 23-year-old convicted sex offender, shot and killed Hendricks with his own gun. The soldier had been taken to an open grave containing the body of a 21-year-old hitchhiker whom Hendricks had murdered. Forensic tests matched Hendricks's gun to the killings of the two gay men.

visor Carol Ruth Silver was hit in the mouth with a chunk of concrete. The same night at approximately 1 p.m., an estimated two dozen San Francisco police officers retaliated against the gay community by removing their badges and name plates and wading into the Elephant Walk Bar on Castro Street, beating patrons and passersby. Several people were hospitalized in the police action—which was so outrageous the FBI announced it would investigate the incident for federal violations.

White was sentenced to a meager four years in jail for the double murder, which defense attorney Doug Schmidt convinced a jury White had committed under the influence of stress, white sugar, and Hostess Twinkies.

Bay Area Reporter political editor Wayne Friday denounced the verdict—and the sentence—as "a prostitution of justice." Supervisor Harry Britt responded to crit-

icism about the riot by telling the media—and the rest of San Francisco and the entire world—that the gay community had nothing to apologize for.

And, in a blistering attack on Dianne Feinstein, the *Bay Area Reporter* endorsed David Scott for mayor, and editor Paul Lorch wrote a scathing 13-point indictment of Feinstein's abysmal record. He pointed out her lack of support for gay issues; her failure to make any significant lesbian or gay appointments during the year; her failure to take action about police harassment of gays; and the fact that she took an astounding seven weeks to name an appointment to replace Harvey Milk.

One chapter in local history ended and another began, as Britt was elected as supervisor; Arlo Smith replaced the disgraced Freitas; and Feinstein was elected mayor.

The '70s were over. ▼

The Lyon-Martin Clinic and the rise of lesbian health

by Mary Ann Swissler

In 1979 a fledgling medical clinic in San Francisco was driven by a distinctive guiding principle: that a surprising number of otherwise brave lesbians and bisexual women would rather skip routine medical care altogether than face coming out to a potentially homophobic physician. Those women needed a place to attend to their health needs in comfort, and the newly-formed Lyon-Martin Clinic was it.

"The main thing was that lesbians didn't feel safe going into the traditional system, which is all there was then," said Lyon-Martin co-founder Sharren Mills, who went on to start one of the first sperm banks for lesbians in the country, Pacific Women's Health and Reproductive Services. Other co-founders include Alana Schilling, now an administrator at UCSF Medical Center in the Anatomy Department, and Eileen Title, a Licensed Practical Nurse who still works in the city.

Initially, Lyon-Martin was a twice-weekly night clinic that lasted for four months during 1978 through the efforts of Schilling, Title, Mills and lesbian physician Patty Robertson, who was in her third-year residency at San Francisco General Hospital. The clinic doubled as Robertson's research program in the obstetrics and gynecology dept. which sought to determine the special needs of lesbians. According to Dr. Robertson, who went on to publish some of the first research on lesbians in a mainstream medical journal and is now an associate professor in the OB/GYN Department at UCSF, it turned up an alarming number of women who had not seen a gynecologist in years.

In the 19 years that have passed since the first 148 women came to Patty Robertson's home for patient intake and pap smear results, Lyon-Martin has become a full-range healthcare services agency with a \$3 million annual budget. In addition to the primary medical care clinic, Lyon-Martin's parenting program for lesbian, gay, and bisexual parents and pregnant parents has seen upwards of 1,500 people, and its administrators have visited schools to discuss gay-friendly curriculums. They also have HIV services, cancer support groups, and community health education.

But that progress came one step at a time. After its first four months in the UCSF gynecology area, the clinic was ousted by the returning department chair—but was adopted, ironically, by the Family Planning Clinic right next door.

In fact, Robertson discovered that many of her colleagues who were straight (or at least not openly gay, lesbian, or bisexual), admired her efforts to change the system from within. And although, she told the *B.A.R.*, "I was trying to keep it quiet because I had a very homophobic department chair," word got out anyway. During the chief resident banquet in 1980, Robertson was bestowed a half-serious, half-kidding Public Service Award for her lesbian health clinic.

"There was a shocked silence, because I hadn't been out," said

Robertson, a mother of three.

The early years

According to Mills, the women decided on the clinic's name during one of their many talks in Robertson's living room. Robertson said she thought of it after spotting Del Martin's book *Lesbian/Woman* on her bookshelf. Martin and her longtime lover Phyllis Lyon agreed to be the center's namesakes—and have attended every fundraiser through the years, Mills said.

Lyon-Martin started to come into its own when it moved from the city's Public Health Department clinic in the Castro to the Portolas Medical Building in the Mission District, where it remained for the next ten years. The level of visibility and of fundraising rose considerably in 1982, Schilling said, when Deborah Friedland, M.D. became medical director. That was also the year that San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein issued a city proclamation for Lyon-Martin Appreciation Day.

Lyon-Martin's uniqueness also got the word out to the straight community, said Mills. "Its existence was talked about. The papers that were published about forming Lyon-Martin went into some major journals." Many residents and interns from Bay Area medical schools logged some of their required clinic hours through the clinic, not all of whom were lesbian.

What all three women remember now about that time was the spirit of giving and cooperation. "I think the wonderful thing about Lyon-Martin's early years was the number of volunteers," Schilling said. "Just this really great spirit."

"It was definitely a big part of the gay community. Gay rights really caught fire and took off in 1977. For a lot of us it became a way to get involved in the lesbian community."

"Volunteering was a great way to get involved in the lesbian community," and it became an instant focal point in the women's medical community, not only among lesbian activists.

The '90s

Health administrator Marj Plumb entered the picture as director in 1986. Along with a small group of other lesbian health activists, she went on to push the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 1993 to include lesbians in National Institutes of Health-sponsored medical research. She is also the director of the Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Concerns for New York City, where she lives with her partner Amber Hollibaugh. Hollibaugh was a lesbian activist in San Francisco for many years, and is now the director of the New York-based Women and AIDS Project for the Gay Men's Health Collective.

Plumb, like Schilling, remembers the unique camaraderie of the clinic. "Once we moved to Market Street ('91) and you walked in," she said, "you walked past a buttoned-up white professional lesbian getting ready to go downtown to her job, but stopping in to get her annual pap smear; an African-American



LMC's (l to r) Patty Robertson, Sharren Mills and Alana Schilling.

woman from that neighborhood with children sitting in the exam room; then you had a lesbian punk with rings out of every orifice and places where there are now orifices where there didn't used to be.

"And they were all sitting next to each other. It really was magic."

"I have never had a work experience like that and I would wish that every single human being would have a work experience like that."

Plumb has moved on, but most things have remained the same at Lyon-Martin: the current director, Donna Canali, a regis-

tered nurse, told the *B.A.R.* the clinic sees about 5,000 women every year, straight and bisexual as well as lesbian. "Women come to us because they feel safe, respected, empowered, and confident that they will receive high quality care regardless of ability to pay."

Another thing that hasn't changed for the clinic is that funding is still tricky for a clinic that serves a non-traditional population of women. Lyon-Martin received some special federal funding from healthcare for the homeless money, from state

Proposition 99 dollars, from the San Francisco Department of Public Health, and of course, from private donations, according to Canali; Robertson commented that the complex funding structure is a testament to what the clinic has become.

And, she said, now that the social net that provided a modicum of health insurance for Americans is unraveling, women and children are hit especially hard because they are the most financially vulnerable as a group. Lesbians are hurt more than heterosexual women because they partner with women, giving them less health insurance access.

"And there's an incredible amount of insensitivity out there," she said. "This provides a safe and empowering place to come and have her needs met. It's still important because lesbians are still being discriminated against in the medical establishment."

"As long as lesbians want to be assured that their voice will be heard when healthcare is discussed, Lyon-Martin will continue to be an essential part of our community," she said. ▼

Lyon-Martin is located at 1748 Market Street, Suite 201, across from Valencia Street, in San Francisco, and can be reached at (415) 565-7667.

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CBS takes stab at 'Gay Power'

by Wendell Ricketts

The actions of the ad hoc "Stop the Movie *Cruising*" committee were endorsed by the Harvey Milk Democratic Club; the buzz from United Artists was that protests may delay the opening of the film, which is scheduled to premiere in 600 theaters in February (they don't).

During a fundraiser at the Castro Theater to retire Supervisor

Harry Britt's campaign debt, comedian and drag artist Charles Pierce presented a routine that caused all 60 members of the Lesbian Chorus, which was also scheduled to perform, to walk out in protest. Later, the Chorus presented Britt with a list of demands "drafted by consensus," including public apologies (for such jokes as "Liz Taylor has more chins than a Chinese phone book"); and an analysis of why Pierce's show was "racist, sexist, classist, and women-hating."

Gay Power/Gay Politics, a CBS documentary, aired nationally and stirred up major controversy over its depictions of gay life; locally, accusations flew about who did or didn't sell out to CBS in the process of filming. At a CBS affiliates' meeting at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles, 500 protesters staged a sit-in.

"Gay porn newcomer" Jim (later Jon) King opened in *Jockstrap*, his first major release, at the brand new Nob Hill Cinema; B.A.R. Porn Corner reviewer Karr dubbed him "aesthetically hung."

The Gay and Lesbian Cuban Refugee Sponsorship Program was formed to help the relocation of the large number of the 20,000 "Marielitos" who are believed to



Flesh feast: The 14 semifinalists in the Mr. Castro pageant flash their pearly whites while showing off their revealing swimwear.

be gay; would-be sponsors had to sign a statement affirming, among other things, that they expect no sexual favors from the refugees they sponsor.

In a precursor to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the Justice Depart-

ment ruled that foreign gays may enter the United States if they don't announce their homosexuality or aren't informed on by a third party; the Department instructed agents not to take the initiative in questioning entering im-

migrants about their sexual orientation.

Black gay activist Mel Boozar was nominated for vice president and spoke at the Democratic convention (after which he withdrew his symbolic candidacy). ▼



Charles Pierce

1st lesbian judge

by Wendell Ricketts

Ronald Reagan was inaugurated as the 40th president of the United States.

Vito Russo's film/lecture, *The Celluloid Closet*, opened in the 5th International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus began a national tour to great acclaim. After the Chorus returned, it was revealed that the tour left the organization with a debt of \$160,000; for years, chorus members spent their weekends on street corners in the Castro trying to raise funds by selling copies of their LP.

The SF Art Commission decided not to buy a bust of assassinated mayor George Moscone by sculptor Robert Arneson; the sculpture was controversial because, among other things, its pedestal was decorated with graffiti and included a bas relief of a smoking Twinkie.

The Pride Foundation opened

The Pride Center, a gay community center in Hayes Valley. The agency received \$376,000 in federal funds for the venture from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The April 8 B.A.R. carried a news item reporting that Archbishop John R. Quinn refused to let the Gay Men's Chorus perform a concert at St. Ignatius Church. A contract had already been signed, so the groups sued, and St. Mary's Cathedral was picketed. The group received a \$5,000 judgment against the Archdiocese.

At the end of April, Atlas Bank, the nation's first gay Savings and Loan Association, announced plans to open its doors in the summer, after it had sold the required \$2 million in stock needed for capitalization.

In July, the San Francisco Police Officer's Association sued the *Bay Area Reporter* for \$20 million

on behalf of two officers identified in a controversial arrest in the Haight. The paper stood by its reporting and a Superior Court judge later dismissed the suit as groundless.

In September, the B.A.R. reported on the previously rare Kaposi's Sarcoma and pneumocystis pneumonia turning up in gay men around the country.

On September 24, Mary Morgan was the first open lesbian in the world to be sworn in as a judge, when Governor Jerry Brown named her to the San Francisco Municipal Court bench. Morgan, 35, was the partner of New College Law professor Roberta Achtenberg.

At the end of October, two defendants charged in the 1979 White Night Riots received suspended sentences, following separate felony and misdemeanor convictions stemming from the melee. ▼

Chorus

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schools, churches, street fairs and parades.

The seminal event in the early life of the Gay Men's Chorus, however, was the 1981 national tour, which included stops in Dallas, Minneapolis, Detroit, New York, Boston, Seattle, Washington, D.C., and Lincoln, Nebraska. The group that San Francisco audiences had embraced was something of a novelty in some quarters — even in cosmopolitan New York — and nothing short of revolutionary in some of the smaller cities. Although it has gone largely unheralded in the mainstream press, the groundswell created by that first national tour had cultural repercussions within the gay community comparable to those wrought in popular culture by the Beatles, Stevie Wonder and Joni Mitchell. Gay men and women in every city on the tour looked up at the chorus on stage and said, "I can do that!" And, indeed, they did.

Every city that the San Francisco chorus visited in 1981 eventually started its own gay chorus, which, as a consequence, inspired similar organizations in cities here and abroad. Upon returning to San Francisco, Mayor Dianne Feinstein presented the chorus with a key to the city — the first time an openly gay group had ever been so honored.

In the years that followed, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus was featured in a front-page article in *The New York Times*, appeared on European television, and performed at both the War Memorial Opera House and Davies Symphony Hall. The newfound celebrity of the Gay Men's Chorus was parlayed into a series of successful compact discs, including an acclaimed "1981 tour album," *How Fair This Place*, and *Brahms, Bernstein & the Boys*. The chorus' most recent release was a Christmas

album, *Our Gay Apparel*.

The gift of music

If the Gay Men's Chorus was born in a hopeful era, the AIDS epidemic has caused many to reassess the meaning of both hope and despair. Artistic Director Stan Hill has observed, "If all we do is bewail our fate, we have lost to the disease. We can grow, learn and expand our perspective from any experience, and AIDS is no exception." In that spirit, which elevates hope from a vague feeling to a way of life, the chorus has commissioned new music (for instance, Kris Anthony's "When We No Longer Touch") that speaks directly to the gay experience. Hill continues: "We are the sum total of our experiences, and we need to express the essence of that accumulation of experience if we are to successfully relate to other humans. Music allows this as no other medium."

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus has given an ineffable gift to San Francisco and the world. Since the beginning of civilization, people have enjoyed getting together with "their own kind" and singing. Church choirs and oratorio societies were once at the center of the musical and social experience in the U.S., and it is only in this age of radio and compact discs that people have become alienated from the act of singing. In bringing gay men from all social and economic groups together in song, this group of singers reminds audiences of what was best about that dubious period often labeled "the good old days" and points the way toward an uncertain future in which harmony must play a role. Hill defines the need for self-identified gay and lesbian choruses: "Music transcends language in its ability to communicate. Unless we as gays and lesbians communicate, we remain undefined and unperceivable to ourselves and others. Therefore, we must sing. Singing will change us. It will change the world." ▼

Harvey Milk

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was as imperfect as any of us. (A friend who knew him said to me, in response to Dan White's statement about Harvey just "smirking" at him, that he understood exactly what White meant, although, of course, he didn't condone his actions at all.) Harvey could be sarcastic and was not above smugly flaunting his triumphs over his opponents.

Undoubtedly, Milk relished his successes and was conscious of his revolutionary achievements. But as radical as he was perceived, and indeed, is still perceived, he worked within the po-

litical system in the broadest sense of that term, and showed that gay people, once organized and motivated, were a political force to be reckoned with. Politicians do not ignore large blocs of voters, and no politician in San Francisco since the late John Barbagelata has dared to challenge our place in the community.

After the murders of Milk and Moscone, Feinstein became mayor and appointed Harry Britt to the Board of Supervisors, to finish out the remainder of Milk's term. Britt served for several terms, and since then the board has not lacked at least one openly gay member.

Because of Milk's courage, and

the courage of people like Stokes, Moscone, Feinstein, Milton Marks, Willie Brown, and others who reached out to our community when it was neither fashionable nor safe to do so, gay people in San Francisco now openly participate in all aspects of city government, serving on school boards, in the police and fire departments, as aides to straight and gay office-holders — in short, transcending the narrow definition of who we are based on our erotic attachments without ever losing our identity. We participate in all our diversity, are not taken for granted, and are recognized as being a vital force in the wonder that is San Francisco.

Thanks, Harvey. ▼

The epidemic begins

by Dennis Conkin

On September 10, 1981, ten months after the 18th case of Kaposi's Sarcoma was diagnosed in San Francisco, the *Bay Area Reporter* published an editorial about the "rare cancer suddenly turning up in gay men."

Addressing the newspaper's previous silence in reporting or editorializing about KS — and "its equally rare sister pneumocystis pneumonia" — editor Paul Lorch said the *B.A.R.* had "been caught between a need to know and the need not to overstate a problem minus a solution."

"We can only suggest two glimpses from the *B.A.R.*'s crystal ball," the editorial continued. "First, the situation will get worse before it gets better, and second, some of our friends will fall victim."

Both prognostications have come true, with a vengeance.

Doctors remember

Dermatologist and expert AIDS care physician Dr. Marcus Conant remembers the beginning of the epidemic with crystal clarity, he recently told the *B.A.R.*

"I think of my first patients all the time. I saw Bobbie Campbell as a patient in the hospital in February, 1981. He was an openly gay nurse who had such a horrible case of shingles on his feet that he was scared for the rest of his life," Conant said.

Like Conant, UCSF's Dr. Paul Volberding also remembers the advent of the epidemic and his first patients.

"I have a photograph of my first patient," he told the *B.A.R.* "I think about him every day. Speaking personally, I think what I really remember is how prepared — and unprepared — I was for it."

Two months after a June 24, 1982 *B.A.R.* story in which Centers For Disease Control experts said suppressed immune systems were causing Kaposi's Sarcoma and pneumocystis pneumonia in gay men around the country, an estimated 413 cases had been reported nationally. Of those, 77 had died.

Longterm survivor Chuck Frutche, who has lived in San Francisco for two decades, said the tenor of the times "was surreal" in the Castro District.

"One of the things I remember really clearly is the feeling that we were about to fall into an abyss," he said, "and there was no way to stop."

'The blood bank knew'

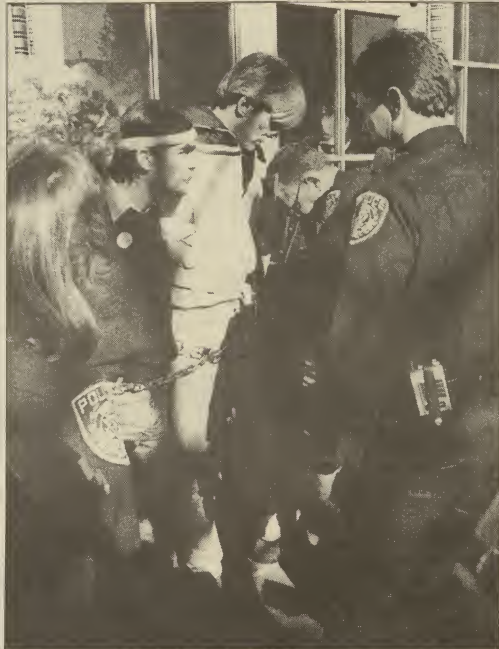
Some people in the early days of the epidemic, including San Francisco Supervisor Wendy Nelder, said water — not a virus transmitted through unsafe sexual practices — was responsible for AIDS.

"It's not the lifestyle or any of the other causes attributed to spreading it. It's the drinking water," Nelder firmly insisted, believing that asbestos and carcinogens were the cause of AIDS.

Conant, however, was certain it was something in the blood.

In 1983, Irwin Memorial Blood Bank announced that it would "screen out sexually active gay men" from donating blood, an announcement Conant still remembers with some ire, because he felt it didn't go far enough to protect the blood supply.

"That invited denial," he told the *B.A.R.* "They didn't say, 'If you



AIDS vigil protest: Demonstrators chain themselves to the old Federal Bldg. in United Nations Plaza.

are gay, please do not give blood.' "What's 'sexually active'?"

A few months earlier, Conant said, he had become aware of the potential danger from blood products when physicians at his UCSF KS clinic treated a young child with AIDS who had no risk factors.

"Except for transfusions."

Conant said the boy "had received blood from 19 donors, and one of the donors who had given blood the year before was now dying of AIDS."

"The blood bank knew, but did not significantly change its policies until antibody testing in 1985."

Conant also remembers the case of Frances Borschelt, a senior citizen who received a transfusion of AIDS-infected blood from Irwin and whose family later sued over the blood bank's malfeasance.

"And rightly so," Conant said.

'Typically very out'

"The first patients I had were typically very 'out' gay men," Volberding told the *B.A.R.* "Many had been really sexually active. Many tended to have very casual and not very committed friendships and tended to be estranged from their families."

Frutche said that isolation and a lack of support networks were common, although that's changed a great deal.

"I've seen a bunch of changes that I don't think are the direct cause of the epidemic. Twenty years ago, everyone was a clone, but now there are a lot of opportunities for diversity. Love is more rich and varied and mature," he said.

"But one of the things that may have changed as a result of the epidemic is that people are much more willing to form friendships quickly."

Frutche says he believes the "extreme sense of fear" prevented many more cases of HIV infection in the gay community in the early days of the epidemic. The so-called "Gay Related Immune Deficiency" had become a constant

topic of conversation in the city: from the latest theories about what caused it, to what sex practices people should avoid to protect themselves. And, of course, who was the latest to fall ill.

Frutche, now retired as education director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, was himself diagnosed in July 1983 with the now-archaic diagnosis of "AIDS-related condition." That was less

Whatever the cause of the epidemic, quarantine was seriously considered as an option by the state Department of Health.

it seemed, had a point of view about how the community was responding to the crisis — and how it should respond.

Organizations sprang up almost overnight, Volberding recalled. In addition to the medical community at UCSF/San Francisco General Hospital, which had established Ward 5 A and a clinic, he said, there were "Shanti, and the first incarnation of what is now the AIDS Foundation — almost everyone you talked to was totally supportive."

"Even more than New York City, San Francisco was the model, the place where gay community leaders and the medical community willingly collaborated. I really do think the gay community responded incredibly to our needs and the need to care for people in the community with HIV."

Not everyone agreed.

"There are leaders in the this community who don't want to know the truth. Their attitude is that it [AIDS] is bad for business, bad for the gay image. The whole thing orders on the homicidal. Some of those responsible are gay leaders. In my mind, they are criminally negligent. They've betrayed their own community," charged Milk Club leader Catherine Cusic.

Cusic's 1983 remarks in a *California* magazine article were

litical reasons.

Everybody ... is dead

By June 1983, 249 cases and 72 deaths had been reported in San Francisco; 1,450 cases had been reported nationally, with 558 deaths. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors allocated \$180,000 in funding for AIDS-specific programs, and the first AIDS Candlelight Vigil was held that October on Castro Street. Several hundred people gathered to commemorate those who had died of AIDS.

"I have a photo of one of the very first marches," Frutche told the *B.A.R.* "Everybody who is holding the banner is dead. Which makes me feel a little odd."

In 1983, a group called The People With AIDS Alliance formed to seek representation on the boards of AIDS-related organizations such as the AIDS Foundation and Shanti Project. In those early days of the epidemic, there was an intense stigma associated with the disease that has virtually disappeared from the city's gay community.

"It used to be horrible," Frutche said. "I was always proud of the white gay male community that they went through the problem of stigma very quickly."

But other minority communities fared less well in combating the stigma of AIDS, which was erroneously seen and often treated as a "gay white man's disease."

In October 1983, journalist Dion Sanders exclusively reported in the *B.A.R.* that 40% of all people diagnosed with AIDS were members of African-American, Latino, Asian, and Native-American ethnic groups. The statistics were gleaned from an unpublished Centers For Disease Control document that Sanders had obtained.

HTLV-III + LAV = HIV

That year physicians also announced that the incubation period before illness was at least 18 months, and discussed whether cytomegalovirus was the cause.

But by April 1984, Human T-cell leukemia virus (or HTLV-II) was the prime suspect, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

A month later there was a major controversy and "transatlantic tension" between Dr. Robert Gallo of the National Cancer Institute and Dr. Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute in France. Gallo claimed that he had identified and replicated HTLV-III, which was quickly revealed to be a clone from the Montagnier-discovered virus called LAV. Eventually the scientific community gave the virus a third name, HIV, for Human Immunodeficiency Virus.

Whatever the cause of the epidemic, quarantine was seriously considered as an option by the state Department of Health that year, and Dr. James Chin's four-point plan was leaked to the press amidst a furor over its suggestions that sex partners be notified and that signs warning of medical quarantine be placed at patients'



The AIDS Walk in Golden Gate Park gets off to a fine start.

than a year after Conant and the newly-formed Kaposi's Sarcoma Foundation began sponsoring major community forums about AIDS.

The San Francisco model

But despite those early efforts to prevent panic, and the tireless efforts of hundreds of volunteers caring for the sick and dying, the gay community was unquestionably under siege. Every observer,

prompted by charges that UCSF researcher Pat Norman, then director of the Health Department's lesbian/gay unit, and Randy Stallings, then head of Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, tried to suppress a confidential report that indicated one of every 333 single men living in the Castro had AIDS.

The article and a subsequent *SF Chronicle* report said the report had been suppressed for po-

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Athletic support: Gays and lesbians parade down Market Street to show their enthusiasm for the upcoming first Gay Games, held here in 1982.

These games are truly Olympic

L/g athletics sets its sights on 1997, 2002

by Rick Thoman

In a few months, 10,000 athletes representing 200 countries will gather in Atlanta, Georgia for the centennial celebration of the Olympic Games. For 17 days, beginning July 9, the international community will focus its attention on the triumphs and tribulations of the world's best athletes. When it comes to sports, there is no grander spectacle than the Olympic Games. What other event could possibly draw 10,000 athletes from around the world to unite in the spirit of athletic fellowship?

Well, what about Gay Games? Just two years ago, for eight hot, humid days in New York City, 11,000 athletes took part in what has become the largest amateur athletic event in the world, the Gay Games. Although comprised of fewer than the 200 countries that will be present in Atlanta this year, there were more participants at the '94 Games, and the operation was run on a budget 1/20th the size. That's an impressive set of statistics for a group of people society has endlessly stereotyped as "sissies" and "non-athletes."

The project has come a long way since Dr. Tom Waddell first proposed the idea at a gay community dinner in San Francisco in 1980. Dr. Waddell had competed at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, and knew first-hand the power of sports to bring people together on an international level. It was his dream to expand that experience to include gays and lesbians: this would be a way to show the world that gays and lesbians have a love of sports equal to heterosexuals, and skills and competitive spirits that would make them shine just as bright.

After his initial proposal, Waddell got some of the top leaders in the gay community involved in his plan, people like Zohn Artman, Rikki Streicher, Sara Lewin-

stein, Lloyd Jenkins and others. They formed San Francisco Arts & Athletics (SFAA), the group that planned and then realized the first two Gay Games in San Francisco.

The theme for the first competition was "Challenge of '82." The "challenge" for SFAA that year was to secure venues, raise money, and get gays involved from communities around the world. Their desire to make this dream a reality helped them launch what they called the Gay Olympics in August, 1982, just 18 months after the first planning session. Like the Olympic Games, the competition would recur every four years, and was replete with a torch run across the country, the lighting of a flame at the opening ceremonies, and a dramatic closing ceremony "spectacular."

The 1982 Opening Ceremonies, held in the crumbling old Kezar Stadium (former home of the SF 49ers), welcomed 1,300 athletes from 12 countries.

What's in a name?

Although support was strong for Gay Olympics, there was one group that wanted to stop it from happening: the United States Olympic Committee (USOC). After the SFAA had printed up flyers, programs and cartons of souvenirs and memorabilia emblazoned with the words "Gay Olympics," the USOC and its powerful connections managed to have a federal court issue an injunction against the SFAA from using the word "Olympics" in connection with the event.

The SFAA was forced at the last minute to rename the competition "Gay Games," but the lines had been drawn for a court battle that continued for years. In 1987, less than a year after the second Gay Games, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in favor of the USOC against SFAA's use of the word "Olympic." (Ironically, there was no problem with the myriad other organizations that used the

word to promote their events: the "Police Olympics," the "Special Olympics," or even the "Crab Olympics.")

Waddell was battling the onset of AIDS when the verdict arrived, but he still managed to put a positive spin on it, saying the battle had exposed the pettiness and silliness of the USOC's homophobia. As a result of the USOC "victory," many gay and lesbian athletes who were used to competing in straight sports remained in the closet. Nevertheless, the spirit of gay athletics remained undiminished.

Doing one's personal best

One reason Gay Games has been so successful is because of its inclusiveness. The event has always been open to both gay and straight athletes of any gender, age, or race. Men and women participate together in equal numbers whenever possible. Age group competition was successfully added at the second Gay Games to get older athletes involved. The physically challenged have always been welcome.

Waddell also wanted to make sure that matches were free of the pressure he felt as an Olympic athlete to win at all costs. A key tenet of the Games has been its emphasis on participation over competition. As Waddell stated in an interview with the B.A.R. prior to Gay Games II, "I wanted to replace this obsession to win at all costs with the positive joys of simple participation. To do one's personal best should be the paramount goal in any athletic endeavor."

Waddell was convinced of this idea because he experienced the "destructive" side of sports personally in Mexico City in 1968. "I placed second at the U.S. Olympic Trials [decathlon]," he told the B.A.R., "although I hadn't been competing for about eight years. During the Trials and at the Games in Mexico City, the em-

Gay Games kick off at Kezar

by Wendell Ricketts

Making Love, with Harry Hamlin and Michael Ontkean as the gay and would-be gay characters respectively, opened in February; full-page ads in the gay papers prominently displayed both Hamlin's left nipple and 20th Century-

Fox's apparent hope that the gay market would carry the film. A month later, Mariel Hemingway and Patrice Donnelly steamed up the screen as lovers in *Personal Best*.

F. Don Miller, Executive Director of the U.S. Olympic Committee, sent Dr. Tom Waddell a letter demanding that the forthcoming Gay Olympic Games drop the use

of the word "Olympic," thus beginning a long and bitter legal battle; when the Games commenced in August at Kezar Stadium, they were called the Gay Athletic Games.

The *Bay Area Reporter* surveyed its readers to determine whether or not penises should continue to appear in photos accompanying Porn Corner reviews.

The 1982 Lesbian and Gay Pride Day turned into tragedy when Darryl Anderson, 19, was crushed to death under the wheels of a float belonging to the I-Beam, a popular Haight Street dance house.

In the fall, ex-Senator John Briggs was ordered to pay \$10,000 to openly gay Healdsburg teacher Larry Berner, who was active against the 1978 Briggs Initiative. The money was

paid to settle a multi-million suit against Briggs, who falsely portrayed Berner as a child molester and unfit to teach.

A U.S. District Court ruled that the Army could not deny reenlistment to 14-year veteran Sergeant Perry Watkins because he is gay. Predictably, the government appealed, and Watkins was



Kate Jackson and Michael Ontkean (top) both have the hots for Harry Hamlin - and who wouldn't?



Sister Florence Nightmare peruses the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence's "Play Fair" pamphlet on STDs.

1982

Nina Gaiser

Gay Games

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phases was not on doing your best, but in beating everyone else. I placed sixth overall and had five personal best marks out of the ten events. Yet people always seemed disappointed when I told them I had been in the Olympics but hadn't gotten a medal.

"The fact that I had made the Olympic team, set five personal best marks, and competed with some of the greatest athletes in the world didn't matter as much to them as winning or capturing a medal. When you bring winning up to a level of importance like that, it makes losing equally important. This is what I wanted to stay away from in Gay Games."

His original plan was to have one medal that would be awarded to all participants in the Gay Games. He was voted down on that, but his principle of participation over competition and doing one's personal best remains.

At the closing ceremonies of Gay Games II, Waddell passed the Gay Games flag to representatives from Vancouver, who hosted the Games in 1990. It was the first time the competition would be held outside of San Francisco and the U.S. Would it still work, still retain the magic of the first two Gay Games? Unfortunately, Waddell wouldn't live to find out.

He died of AIDS in July 1987 at the age of 49.

Federation increases profile of Gay Games

During the summer of 1989, San Francisco Arts & Athletics was officially replaced by the Federation of Gay Games. Established as an all-volunteer group with an international board that includes

representatives from all the previous Gay Games, the Federation continues to ensure that the competition occurs every four years, and that participants adhere to the tenets and philosophies upon which Gay Games was based. A nonprofit-based organization, the Federation holds legal ownership of the "Gay Games" logo and retains authority to license its use. The Federation does not plan or produce the Gay Games; it merely acts as a resource for the host organization, providing advice, assistance, and monitoring actions.

The first host city to receive the Federation's help was Vancouver, British Columbia. On August 4, 1990, Vancouver welcomed more than 7,000 athletes and 1,500 cultural participants to Gay Games III, dubbed "Celebration '90." With a budget of over \$1.25 million, there were now over 30 countries represented in 26 sporting events. While some were afraid the concept of Gay Games would never work outside San Francisco, Vancouver provided irrefutable proof that the idea and ideals of the Games were here to stay. By 1990, the event had grown into one of the largest multi-sport, multi-national athletic events in the world, even eclipsing the 1990 USA/USSR Goodwill Games.

With the help of the Federation, word spread quickly about Gay Games. Suddenly everyone wanted to participate. So much so that it began to put a strain on budgets, facilities, and entry fees. But growth wasn't all bad. The celebration is now so huge that the world's non-gay media have found it increasingly difficult to overlook. For example, the *San Francisco Examiner*, which virtu-

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Kramer: '1,112 and counting'

by Wendell Ricketts

In January 1983, longtime gay activist attorney Herb Donaldson was appointed to the SF Municipal Court bench by Governor Jerry Brown. Donaldson had been active in gay rights for more than two decades in San Francisco.

In February, gay playwright Tennessee Williams died at the age of 71.

The White Panthers, a local activist group that opposed Mayor Feinstein's stance on gun control, launched a recall campaign; the

lesbian and gay community went along for the ride on the issue of Feinstein's domestic partners veto. It failed in April.

In March Larry Kramer published his now-famous call to action, "1,112 and Counting," in the *New York Native*. The *Bay Area Reporter* reprinted the piece the same week. Kramer's relentless *cri de coeur* ("Unless we fight for our lives we shall die. In all the history of homosexuality we have never been so close to death and extinction before") provoked a group of 20 SF AIDS activists to send the B.A.R. a letter slamming its "sensationalistic AIDS reporting."

Anti-gay Congressman Larry McDonald of Georgia (who was also president of the John Birch Society) died when Korean Airlines Flight 007 was shot down by Soviet MIGs.

In May, Metropolitan Community Church learned that the National Council of Churches would not accept the denomination as a member because of opposition from mainstream denominations. The Greek Orthodox Church and others threatened to pull funds from the group if MCC was accepted as member.

Lesbian and gay Congregation Sha'ar Zahav bought the former Caselli Street Mormon temple as the site for its synagogue, according to a May B.A.R. report.

The city's Human Rights

1983

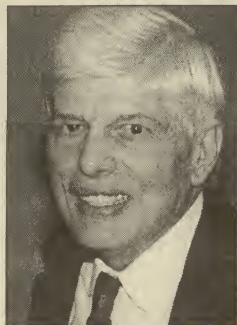
FLASHBACK

Murder most foul



George Sena

In 1983 escaped convict Walter Farmer (above) stabbed Harold Pennington 28 times and tried to use a "homosexual panic" alibi to get off. His defense was blown when gay hairdresser George Sena testified that after the murder Farmer had spent four days with him having reciprocal sex and indulging in porno photo sessions.



Phil Miglione Jr.

Judge Herb Donaldson.

Commission held hearings into charges that almost two dozen gay bars in San Francisco discriminated against non-whites in hiring.

The hearings were the result of a year long investigation by the SF chapter of Black And White Men together.

In July, Representative Gerry Studds came out of the closet, and announced that he was gay on the floor of the House of Representatives. Studds did so after being accused of violating ethics for having sex with a 17-year-old male page. Studds called the accusation "a very serious error in judgment."

In October, a lack of votes forced state Assemblyman Art Agnos to withdraw his pioneering AB 1 legislation that prohibited employment discrimination against gays and lesbians. Agnos vowed to reintroduce the measure in 1984.

In November, longtime gay activist John Laird became mayor of Santa Cruz. ▼

Gay Games

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ally ignored the first two competitions, flew columnist Rob Morse to New York to send back daily accounts of his experiences at Gay Games IV in 1994. The Associated Press, United Press International, and the New York daily newspapers covered the event, as did local New York cable TV, which ran continuous news about Gay Games throughout the week. In 1998, the Games will be broadcast throughout Europe and the world from Amsterdam's "Friendship Broadcast Center," to be set up outside City Hall.

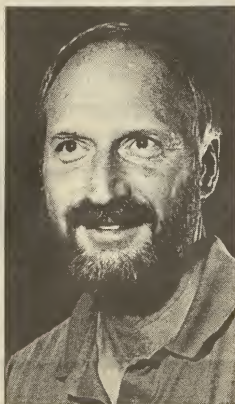
The size of the Gay Games has also attracted bigger sponsors. While the first Games were mainly dependent on local gay-oriented or gay-sympathetic businesses, the 1994 Gay Games in New York signed on such mainstream advertisers as Miller Brewing and AT&T. Amsterdam is also lining up big-name sponsors in hopes of defraying its estimated \$8.52 million budget.

Looking ahead to Gay Games V

Gay Games V, to be held August 1-8, 1998 in Amsterdam, will be the first Gay Games held off the North American continent. An estimated 12,000 people are expected to participate. The theme is "Friendship '98" and will further strengthen the global appeal and recognition of Gay Games.

Many now wonder where Gay Games VI will be held in the year 2002. Will it be Sydney, Australia, which made strong bids for both the '94 and '98 Gay Games, and which will play host to the "other" Olympics in the year 2000? The 2002 Gay Games will be the 20th anniversary of the original 1982 Gay Games, and Federation of Gay Games board member Susan Kennedy would like to see the competition return to the Bay Area in honor of that celebration. The spunky San Jose Sports Authority, which brought the National Figure Skating Championships and the NCAA basketball championships to the South Bay, has indicated it would like to find out more about being a host city.

Regardless of where the competition is held, Gay Games is now a part of the world at large. Thanks to Waddell's vision, the Games are responsible for a tremendous upsurge and aware-



Dr. Tom Waddell.

ness in the gay and lesbian sports community. Prior to the premiere games of '82, softball and bowling leagues, as well as the Lavender U. Runners (which became San Francisco Frontrunners), were among the only gay sports organizations in town. Now, nearly every major city throughout the world has a gay and lesbian sports organization.

Besides its important role in developing gay sports competitions, Gay Games has also provided a unique opportunity every four years for the global gay community to come together in a grand celebration of pride and unity. As a competitor at the New York Gay Games remarked, "It didn't matter what event you were in or whether or not you placed. The Gay Games are important because as a community we worked hard and we played hard, and out of that we became family."

And what Dr. Waddell and the other organizers passionately believed in has taken root - the shattering of homosexual stereotypes and a chance to dignify and promote gay and lesbian athletes and athletics.

While joy of sport is diminishing everywhere in reaction to the pressures of money, big-name contracts and cries for new stadiums, it remains steadfast at the Gay Games because the cheers are based not on how much you earn but on how hard you try, or that you simply tried at all. They continue to provide a venue for gay and lesbian athletes to show their talent, pride, courage, and ability, something Olympians and athletes everywhere should take note of. ▼

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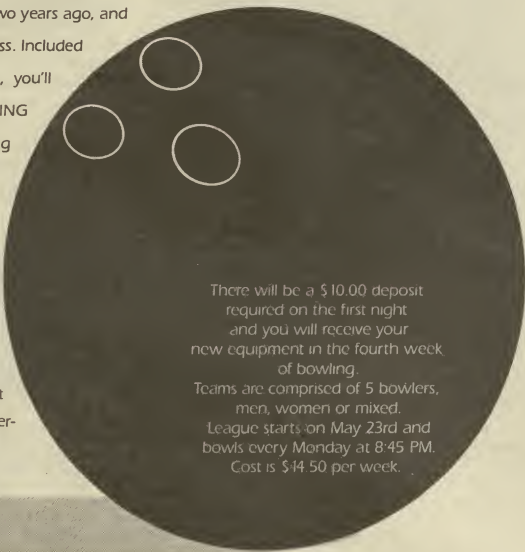
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Jon Sims

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decided no parade should be without a marching band. A former professional French horn player with the Chicago Symphony who had been raised on a Wichita cattle farm, Jon R. Sims tacked notices to Castro area telephone poles and sent press releases calling for musicians, twirlers, anyone with musical experience—or who wished they had some—to start a band. A sign of the times: the band's first meeting was at the Trocadero Transfer, one of the great gay nightclubs of the '70s.

Gay Pride, June 25, 1978:

Behind a banner that read "San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band & Twirling Corps," 50 musicians wearing red jackets, white visors, and blue jeans marched onto Market Street and burst into the opening strains of "California, Here I Come." Out in front, dressed in white from his sun visor to his sneaker tops and wielding a silver mace, Jon Sims leaped and strutted. Further back, Harvey Milk rode in an open convertible. It would be the only Pride parade he would celebrate as City Supervisor.

The point of a group of gay men and women participating in a shared American tradition was lost on no one. The band became an immediate source of pride for

The band became an immediate source of pride for the gay community, which scrambled to join, support or get booked into its schedule.

the gay community, which scrambled to join, support or get booked into its schedule. The musicians often performed at Gay Softball League Games. They headlined at "A Little Rights Music," a fundraiser for the Citizens Against Proposition 6 at the Castro Theatre with Sharon McNight and Leonard Matlovich.

The band was given celebrity treatment in *Drummer* magazine, accompanied by a photo of a piccolo sticking out of the hip pocket of one member's tight blue jeans. Jose Sarria, AKA the Widow Norton, donated the band's first two sousaphones. He also persuaded Robert Golovich—referred to by Jose as "The Bank of Czechoslovakia"—to outfit the band in the red, black, and rainbow-colored uniforms the band wears to this day, and Harvey Milk himself presented Jon with the check at the Beaux Arts Ball. And when Proposition 6 was handily defeated after a long battle, the band led the victory celebration through the Castro.

More striking than its celebrity in the gay community was the band's immediate rapport with much of "straight" San Francisco, which wanted to show its support in the wake of Briggs' campaign and Harvey Milk's assassination. The band took top prizes at the Columbus Day, Chinese New Year's, and St. Patrick's Day parades. Francis Ford Coppola brought the band to his vineyard for his 40th birthday.

1979

Sims said in a 1979 interview that his plan was "to produce a valid, high-quality performing arts organization [that would] eventually include not only music, but dance and theatre ... so that each is autonomous and independent, running itself and sharing its resources. An organization that can be turned over to all of society as a kind of gift from the gay community, once being gay is an obsolete issue."

The F.L.A.G. Corps, the Tap Troupe with Rosie the Radiator, David Kelsey and Pure Trash, Varsity Drag, and the orchestra Lambda Pro Musica were all fostered by Sims under the non-profit umbrellas he created, and for which he served as executive director. He then staged collaborative concerts that combined a va-

riety of music with spectacular flag and tap routines. "Black Tie Optional" at Everett Middle School featured a classical program. For "A Night at the Movies," the band arrived in limousines and tuxedos and performed movie themes. And in 1980, the band performed two sold-out performances at the newly built Louise M. Davies Hall. It was the first time an openly gay and lesbian group had ever performed at a major symphony hall.

1982

By 1982, Jon Sims had left the San Francisco Band Foundation to tour the world as a symphonic French horn artist. He died in 1984, an early casualty of AIDS. But his legacy to the gay commu-

nity across the nation was secure. Gay bands and choruses have remained active across the country.

1996

Every weekend, and one week-day, the band pulls on the dress polyesters that Sarria, Milk, and Golovich finagled for Sims's band and performs for various San Francisco events: the Chinese New Year's and St. Patrick's Day Parades; opening day of the Gay Softball League; the Widow Norton's annual visit to her beloved Emperor Norton's gravesite; the Domestic Partners Ceremony; and the dedication of the James C. Hormel Lesbian and Gay Center at the New Main Library.

Our history continues each day. ▼

COMMUNITY ARTS

This joint is really jumpin'

by Heidi Beeler

The Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts—part of the legacy left by Jon R. Sims, founder of the lesbian/gay music movement—has grown into the sort of non-profit umbrella you might expect Mary Poppins to pull from her carpetbag. At a time when funding for the arts, and gay-identified arts in particular, is cut as a matter of conservative course, the Sims Center is magically alive with queer talent.

In addition to being home to community arts groups such as the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band, City Swing, the Bay Area Raw Raws and Outlook Video, the Jon Sims Center now has a 49-seat performance lab space, allowing for performances on-site. Here are some Sims Center programs to watch for:

AIIRspace—April begins a new quarter of AIIRspace Friday lab performances with four new residents. Dominique Zeltzman dances in a duet with Miranda Mellis (April 5). Linda Moakes combines humor with history in the new one-woman show *The Legacy of Lotta Crabtree* (April 12). Ron Kelly deals with sex, hypermasculinity and White Trash culture in *Ramblings of a White Guy/Did I Mention Free Beer?* (April 19). Heidi Beeler crosses New Orleans jazz with comic storytelling in collaboration with the Dixieland Dykes +3 (April 26). Suggested donation is \$5.

Community Concert Series—Tuesday, April 9, 8:15 p.m., the San Francisco Winds of Freedom/S.F. Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band performs a free concert at Bethany United Methodist, 1268 Sanchez Street, S.F. Featuring the public premier of Don Seaver's "Into the Light," composed for the dedication of the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center at the new public library, the concert reprises in Concord, Saturday, April 20, First Christian Church, 3039 Willow Pass Road. Free.

City Swing with Gail Wilson—Sunday, April 14, 3:30 p.m., the 35-piece dance band swings at the Ramada Hotel Crystal Ballroom, 1231 Market Street, @ 8th, S.F. Dance class taught by Albert Aguilar at 2 p.m. \$12.

SlipNot—This Pride Month series features some of San Francisco's finest performers, including High Risk Group with Artistic Director Rick Darnell (June 1); musician/composer Pamela Z (June 8); the awry all-women musical quartet Askew (June 15); *The Boyz*, an all-male evening with Gregory O'Neil, Albie Park, Ron Kelly and Charles Herman-Wurmfeld (June 22); and queer dancers Steam Roller, Samuel Topiary and Dominique Zeltzman. At the Sims Center, 1519 Mission Street, @ 11th, S.F.

Steamy Summer Ensemble Series—Kill off a hot afternoon with cool white wine and great music. This summer, the Sims Center will host some of the Winds of Freedom's finest musicians playing great pop, jazz and classical music in tight ensembles. The Steamy Summer Ensemble Series is a spin-off of our popular Community Concert Series. Dates and times to be announced. ▼

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▼ We have been providing expert travel services at our comfortable and convenient Castro area office for over 11 years. During this time, many other local travel agencies have come ... and gone! When "investing" your precious time and money in travel, it's prudent to seek out an agency with a proven record of

safety and reliability, not to mention the experience and knowledge to place your "investment" where you'll get the highest "returns"—and our thousands of satisfied clients can attest to our success in these areas.

▼ We employ nine professional, in-house travel counselors (gay, lesbian, and straight), all of whom are trained and experienced in all types of travel arrangements—we do not utilize "outside sales" agents. This means that the agent you choose to work with (or a highly qualified "back-up") will always be available to serve you during our normal business hours. It also means that there is hardly a destination, cruise, tour or package that somebody in our office does not have personal experience with. And this direct knowledge, combined with feedback from our many clients, gives us the kind of travel "savvy" you just can't find anywhere else.

▼ Many travel agencies now assess service charges for some airline tickets, or refuse to book certain airlines altogether. But at *Now, Voyager* we endeavor to get you the best deal on any airline, and with no additional fees to you...true "one-stop shopping" for all your travel needs!

▼ Some agencies put together their own tour groups or packages which they push especially hard because they yield more profit to the agency. But *Now, Voyager* operates as a true "full-service" agency

to sell and offer impartial advice about all your travel options; our goal is to make the travel arrangements that are just right for you.

▼ To keep you informed, we regularly publish a gay travel Newsletter; drop in for your FREE copy of our latest 12-page issue.

▼ *Now, Voyager* has shown its commitment to the gay community by pledging to donate 10% of each year's before-tax profits to community charities. In 1995, we made major contributions to Frontrunners' "Pride Run," the Horizons Foundation, Grassroots Gay Rights Advocates, Project Open Hand, and several other organizations.

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Lesbians rally to provide AIDS-free blood

by Mary Ann Swissler

Flyers urging lesbians to donate blood for AIDS patients began cropping up in the Castro district in 1985, put there by lesbian members of the Harvey Milk Club who organized The Women's Day Blood Bank.

What began as an idea by second-generation San Franciscan Lenore Chinn, to help gay men in need of frequent blood transfusions to allay the side effects of AIDS drugs, turned into an annual blood drive each August from 1985 through 1994. It was made possible through the combined efforts of the women's caucus of the Harvey Milk Club and Lesbian Democratic Club, Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in the Castro, and the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank of San Francisco.

Chinn also credited fellow lesbians of the Harvey Milk Club, Dawn Moore, Joyce Newstadt, and Gwenn Craig, in getting the project off the ground at a time

when people in San Francisco and elsewhere were still trying to figure out the implications of AIDS. The idea behind setting up the special account was to provide "credits" for PWAs within the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank, said Chinn. No gay men were allowed to donate blood, but lesbians' blood — and, in those days, women in general — was considered completely safe.

The idea definitely wasn't an original one, Chinn said, since she modeled it after Blood Sisters in San Diego, a group that visited San Francisco in 1983 and talked about their project. A year later, when she lost a very good friend to the disease, she started to pitch the idea.

Unfortunately, Chinn found, her loss was increasingly common among lesbian members of the Harvey Milk crowd. "By that time we saw the effect of AIDS in our club," Chinn said. "In retrospect, there were a lot of people dropping like flies."

The blood bank proved therapeutic for Chinn. "I think for me



Lenore Chinn: "In retrospect, there were a lot of people dropping like flies."

it was dealing with my own personal loss. I didn't realize how long it would go on. Since then I have lost every single member of my gay extended family who are boys."

Dawn Moore was responsible for getting the Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in the Castro involved, and Father Tony LaGuire convinced the predominantly straight parish to throw

page 60 ►



Gay cops in the Castro: Jim Barron (left) and Dennis Tomason in 1986.

Supreme Court: anti-sodomy

by Wendell Ricketts

In January, Rock Hudson's former lover Marc Christian filed a multi-million dollar suit against the Hudson estate, saying the Hollywood movie star had lied about his health and told him that he didn't have AIDS.

Local Health Department experts said that 1,700 people in San Francisco had been diagnosed with AIDS in the four-year period that ended in February, 1986. Ninety-eight percent were gay men.

After a 15-year struggle by activists, New York City finally passed a gay rights bill in April.

In May, 10,000 people marched on the Castro to Civic Center in the third annual AIDS Candlelight Memorial. Eighty

cities around the word participated in the event.

In June, well-known gay activist Cleve Jones was stabbed in the back by two teenage assailants in Sacramento. The knife wound almost killed the onetime aide to Harvey Milk and founder of the Names Project memorial AIDS Quilt.

In a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld Georgia's anti-sodomy

statute in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, affirming that state's position that homosexuals have no constitutional right to privacy. The ruling bolstered anti-sodomy laws on the books in 25 states and the District of Columbia, and later led several other states to try to add such laws. When Justice Sandra

page 60 ►

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Gays and lesbians demonstrate against recruiting outside the Armed Forces Recruiting Center in San Francisco in January 1988.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Fiery dawn



This early morning scene is of the December 9, 1988 fire that gutted the SW corner of 18th and Castro, destroying the Elephant Walk, Main Line Gifts and other businesses.

AIDS death toll passes Vietnam

by Wendell Ricketts

A new activist group, Stop AIDS Now or Else, staged a guerrilla action on the Golden Gate Bridge, shutting it down briefly during rush hour; local AIDS leaders vied to see who could give reporters the most noncommittal comment in reaction to the event.

The Trocadero Transfer, for more than ten years one of SF's hottest spots for late-night drugs and disco, closed; its owners cited a downturn in business.

Delays continued for the long-awaited movie version of Patricia Nell Warren's *The Front Runner*. Citing ongoing casting problems, producer Jerry B. Wheeler took out a full-page ad in *Variety* with the headline "Myth: If I play a gay role, I'll never work in this town again" and followed it with a list of 90 successful actors who'd done so.

Democratic Presidential candidate Al Gore told reporters he'd sign an executive order banning discrimination against gays if elected; Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, who ultimately snagged the nomination, told gays

to "wait until his second term" for any action on their issues.

The premiere of a new national magazine, *Outlook Quarterly*, heralded a boom in gay and lesbian publishing.

On April 4th, 1988 the death toll from AIDS surpassed the toll of Americans killed during the Vietnam War, as the Centers For Disease Control in Atlanta issued the grim report that 58,270 Americans had perished from the disease; 58,132 Americans died in the Vietnam conflict.

The Senate voted 87-4 to pass the first comprehensive federal legislation on AIDS (The AIDS Research and Information Act, authored by Senator Edward Kennedy). Senator Jesse Helms attached an amendment that prohibited the use of federal funds for materials depicting safe sex.

Mayor Agnos ordered an investigation into police misconduct after a club-wielding officer ruptured longtime activist Dolores Huerta's spleen at a peaceful protest against Reagan/Bush AIDS policies at a Union Square hotel.

After years of negotiations (and after long lists of potential stars were discarded, including a

suggestion that Al Pacino play Arnold Beckoff), Harvey Fierstein's *Torch Song Trilogy* made it to the big screen.

The legendary Divine (born Harris Glenn Milstead) died of a heart attack in a Los Angeles hotel room; disco diva and former Cockette, Sylvester, whose music helped score the '80s, succumbed to AIDS at his home in San Francisco. ▼

1988



Big and beautiful: Divine in her Polyester period.

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Mapplethorpe show cancelled; Helms trashes NEA

by Wendell Ricketts

George Bush was inaugurated as the 41st president of the United States; Supervisor Harry Britt became the first openly gay president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

After years of inconclusive reports linking the use of isobutyl nitrate (poppers) to KS, immune suppression, and other manifestations of AIDS, the Drug Omnibus Act of 1988 took effect, outlawing (among other things) the production, distribution, and sale of poppers.

Only a few months after the death of Robert Mapplethorpe at the age of 42, the director of the Washington, D.C. Corcoran Gallery canceled *The Perfect Moment*, an exhibition of Mapplethorpe's photographs. In the

aftermath, Senator Jesse Helms found a platform to trash the NEA and public funding of the arts generally, and a wave of censorship mania swept the country.

In March, San Francisco City College established the first formally organized Department of Gay and Lesbian Studies in the country.

Under pressure from gay and lesbian activists and members of Congress, the Department of Defense released an unclassified, ten-month-old report that urged the military to lift its ban on homosexual service members.

Ex-bartender Marc Christian was awarded \$14.5 million from the estate of Rock Hudson for "emotional distress" he suffered because Hudson allegedly failed

to inform him that he "suffered from AIDS before his death."

Maud's, "the world's oldest lesbian bar" closed its doors after 23 years in the same San Francisco location, closed in June.

In July, after 14 years of legal wrangling, Pacific Bell was ordered to pay \$3.5 million to

205 claimants -

which settled the most protracted and largest anti-gay job discrimina-

tion suit in the country's history. The claimants had been denied jobs or were fired if the company believed they were gay.

Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, who had been an outspoken advocate for AIDS and sex education - and with whom neither President Reagan nor President Bush had ever personally met - resigned his post in August.

Stop AIDS Now or Else zapped the SF Opera season opener, delaying the curtain for 20 minutes. Blowing whistles and shouting, scruffy activists tangled in the carpeted aisles with A-Gays in tuxedos. Afterwards, it became clear how sacrosanct the opera is, and the activists were roundly condemned for "going too far."

In an apparently unauthorized action that became known as the "Castro Street Sweep," a phalanx

1989



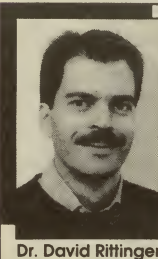
The illustrious Rikki Streicher as she leaves Maud's for the last time.

Darius/Photo Graphics

of police officers imprisoned citizens in bars, restaurants, and shops, so they could "clear the area." Litigation followed and, although the Office of Citizen Complaints later found "no improper conduct," Police Captain Richard Cairns was suspended 45

days for unauthorized force, for striking two protesters with his baton and other charges.


The 7.1 Loma Prieta earthquake struck the Bay Area at 5:04 p.m., minutes after the opening of the World Series at Candlestick Park. ▼



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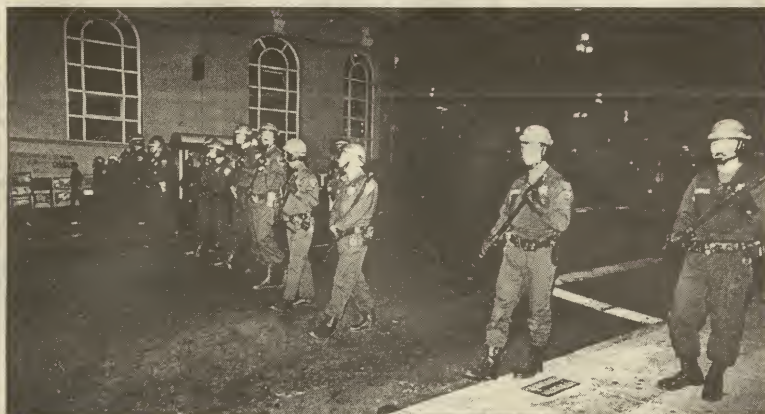
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Cowboys on foot: The notorious Castro Street Sweep begins...Oct. 6, 1989.

Rick Gerhart

1986

◀ page 57

Day O'Connor, who voted with the majority, came to town in July to speak at the Hilton Hotel, some 4,000 protesters assembled to show her a bad time.

Election Day 1986 brought mixed results: Lyndon LaRouche's Prop. 64, which called for AIDS quarantines and mandatory re-

porting of those known or suspected to have AIDS, was trounced at the polls. Governor Deukmejian was reelected, however, and California Supreme Court Chief Justice Rose Bird, one of the last liberals on the bench, was ousted along with two of her progressive colleagues.

Among the year's dead were Bill Kraus, longtime SF activist and gay politico; Jean Genet, the chameleonic French author and

criminal *manqué*; and Roy Cohn, a homophobic, anti-Semitic gay Jew who was perhaps the chief architect of McCarthyism. Cohn later rated a panel in the Names Project Quilt that proclaimed: "Roy Cohn - Bully, Coward, Victim." Writer Christopher Isherwood had also died of prostate cancer at his Santa Monica home at the age of 91. He was survived by artist Don Bachardy, his lover of 31 years. ▼

AIDS-free blood

◀ page 57

church support behind the project.

Each August from 1985 through 1994, an Irwin Memorial Blood Bank mobile van stationed itself at the Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church to collect blood from lesbians who traveled from as far away as Santa Cruz and Sacramento. Chinn told the B.A.R. they attracted donors by taking out ads out in the local gay press, and staffed it with volun-

teers with mostly lesbian Milk Club volunteers.

And as the carnage of the virus wore on, the slogan was changed from "our boys" to "Our PWAs need blood." Even so, opposition to the blood bank reflected the turmoil involved in AIDS issues in general. In 1988, ignorance almost shut it down.

"Summer drives drew approximately 100 women," Chinn said. "One year we maxed out with about 150! But the year that Dr. Lorraine Day [a Seventh Day Adventist] came along and tried to shut us down, accusing 'gay'

donors of endangering the blood supply, our donations dropped to under 60. Petitions to her employer, San Francisco General Hospital, plus negotiations between City Hall, the blood bank and others, saved the project."

But despite the need for blood, and the popularity of the lesbian blood drive, it ceased operation in 1994 when Irwin pulled the plug on the "credit" system.

"They wanted us to keep giving the blood" without the reciprocity, commented Moore.

And Irwin kept the donor list. ▼

MIGDEN, ACHTENBERG ELECTED

by Wendell Ricketts

The U.S. Census Bureau announced that it would include the category "unmarried partner" in the relationship section of its 1990 questionnaire, leaving open the possibility that statistics on gay and lesbian couples could be collected.

In January, two local Lutheran churches risked expulsion for ordaining the Reverends Phyllis Zillhart, Ruth Frost, and Jeff Johnson as clergy in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, in defiance of the denomination's ban on sexually active gay clergy.

Ryan White, the teenage AIDS patient whose battle for acceptance plucked a national heartstring for innocent victims, died.

Appearing on an April episode of *Geraldo* dedicated to the issue of "outing," *Outweek* columnist Michelangelo Signorile punched out an audience member who heckled him.

In May, SF Superintendent of Schools Ramon Cortines was slammed for his remarks about in-school support programs for lesbian and gay students, such as LA's Project 10. School districts had to be "very careful about enticing young people about their sexual orientation," Cortines told a reporter. After refusing to retract the remark, Cortines was ousted as a closeted gay man by editor Michelle DeRanleau of the *San Francisco Sentinel*. DeRanleau was promptly fired, and a Project 10-

like program was adopted in San Francisco.

Longtime Companion opened at theaters nationwide. Although it was not the first AIDS-themed movie, it was the first to receive not only wide release but rave reviews throughout the mainstream

press.

Lesbian attorney Donna Hitchens beat conservative Deukmejian appointee Jerome Benson for a San Francisco Superior Court seat in June.

The 6th International AIDS

Conference opened quietly in SF, but didn't end that way. Activists using air horns drowned out the conference's closing speech by U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan.

A new activist group, Queer Nation, was born and immediately began staging demos, kiss-ins, and other direct actions around the Bay Area.

Controversy over "process"

and over whether their coalition efforts were too broad caused ACT UP to undergo fission; ACT UP/Golden Gate and ACT UP/San Francisco were formed.

In a much heralded "Lavender Sweep," Voters approved Prop K (domestic partners legislation); elected Carole Migden and Roberta Achtenberg to the Board of Supervisors; and sent activist/comedian/teacher Tom Amiano to the school board.

Dianne Feinstein lost her bid for the governorship. ▼

1990



A scene from the gay AIDS tearjerker, *Longtime Companion*.

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COMMUNITY NEWS



On June 1, 1990, in San Francisco, the National Organization for Women gave their Women of Courage Award to lesbian lovers Sharon Kowalski and Karen Thompson. Karen fought for custody of Sharon after a devastating car accident left Sharon at the mercy of her family, who did not approve of Karen or their relationship.

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A list of parade themes

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1970 - "Gay-In" | 1982 - "Out of Many...One" |
| 1971 - No event in San Francisco | 1983 - "Strengthen the Ties, Break the Chains" |
| 1972 - Christopher Street West | 1984 - "Unity & More in '84" |
| 1973 - "A Celebration of the Gay Experience" | 1985 - "Honor Our Past, Secure Our Future" |
| 1974 - "Gay Freedom by '76" | 1986 - "Forward Together No Turning Back" |
| 1975 - "Join Us, The More Visible We Are The Stronger We Become" | 1987 - "Proud, Strong, United" |
| 1976 - "United for Freedom, Diversity Is Our Strength" | 1988 - "Rightfully Proud" |
| 1977 - "Gay Frontiers Past, Present, Future" | 1989 - "A Generation of Pride" |
| 1978 - "Come Out With Joy, Speak Out For Justice" | 1990 - "The Future Is Ours" |
| 1979 - "Our Time Has Come" | 1991 - "Hand in Hand Together" |
| 1980 - "Liberty and Justice For All" | 1992 - "A Simple Matter of Justice" |
| 1981 - "Front Line of Freedom" | 1993 - "The Year of the Queer" |
| | 1994 - "Pride and Protest" |
| | 1995 - "A World Without Borders" |
| | 1996 - "Equality and Justice for All" |

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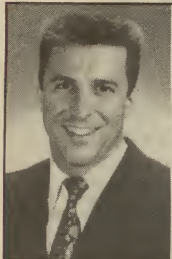
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'Year of the Queer' pushes buttons

by Wendell Ricketts

Queer Nation designated 1991 the "Year of the Queer," touching off a snippy community battle about whether using the word "queer" is revolutionary or merely hateful.

A plan to declare San Francisco a "city of refuge" for sexual minorities, under a measure that actually moved through committee, would have required signs declaring the sanctuary to be posted on major roadways leading to the city. The bill was panned by Mayor Art Agnos.

More than 300 lesbian and gay couples (and six heterosexual ones) came to City Hall on Valentine's Day to register their domestic partnerships under SF's new law.

Local 2 of the San Francisco Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union became the first union in the country to provide healthcare benefits for people with HIV infection in February.

The OutWrite '91 writers' conference convened in SF. Playwright Edward Albee immediately pissed everyone off with comments about black separatism, and rancorous shouting matches erupted during panels on censorship and public funding for the arts.

Activists began staging major protests as the filming of *Basic Instinct* got underway in San Francisco. Allegations that protesters had vandalized film locations, and charges of physical abuse by both film crew and activists, kept the courts busy for months.

National gay activists began targeting Cracker Barrel, a Tennessee-based chain for refusing



Pedal pushers: Marvin Ross (seated) and Aaron Nelson, resplendent in their spandex, won the annual Tricycle Race.

to hire lesbians and gays. The company had an express policy of not hiring openly lesbian or gay workers, but later claimed it rescinded the policy after negative reaction when it fired several lesbian and gay workers.

Controversial New Jersey Episcopal Bishop Paul Spong claimed in a new book about fundamentalist Christianity that the Christian Apostle Paul

was a homosexual.

Tony Kushner's *Angels in America* premiered at SF's Eureka Theater. Two years later it moved to Broadway under the direction of George C. Wolfe, where it won two Pulitzer Prizes.

Eighteen PBS affiliates refused to air *Tongues Untied*, internationally acclaimed filmmaker Marlon Riggs's documentary about black gay men.

Angela Alioto kicked off her mayoral campaign, launching a quest for elective office that continues to this day. ▼

1991



Many SF gays and lesbians marched for peace and against the Gulf War in January 1991.

Hongisto in, then out, as Chief

by Wendell Ricketts

1992 began with the January 8 swearing in of former Chief of Police Frank Jordan as Mayor of San Francisco. Jordan, a moderate-to-conservative Democrat, beat out incumbent Art Agnos for the post.

A furor erupted in January over actor Mel Gibson's anti-gay tirade in a Spanish magazine.

Gibson told the interviewer that gay men "take it up the ass" and then pointed to his own rear end and said, "This is only for taking a shit." Gibson later refused to apologize for the remarks.

Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg and local organizers began an effort to pressure the United Way to stop funding the Boy Scouts of America, which had aggressively purged gay Eagle Scouts and troop leaders. Achtenberg also sponsored a measure calling for the city to withdraw \$6 million in public funds from Bank of

America, which funded the Scouts. Neither effort was successful.

In March, a \$10,000 reward was offered for the arrest and conviction of two men who murdered Cameron "Tina" Tanner, a popular gay bar manager. Tanner was bludgeoned in the head with a baseball bat on March 12 at 16th and South Van Ness. He died several weeks later. His assailants were never identified.

Mayor Jordan appointed Assessor and former Supervisor Richard Hongisto as Chief of Police.

In April, famed tennis star Arthur Ashe revealed that he had contracted HIV infection through a blood transfusion during open-heart surgery in 1989.

In May, gay philanthropist James Hormel donated an initial \$500,000 to kick off a fund drive for the Gay and Lesbian Center at the site of the New Main Library, scheduled to open in 1996.

Bob Hattoy, who later won a post in the Clinton Administra-

1992



Sex workers and their supporters rally at City Hall to protest the DA's proposal to start "mapping" prostitutes.



Anti-Castro protesters demonstrate against a meeting at Mission High calling for peace with Cuba. They were supposedly concerned with the lack of gay rights there.

tion, was hand-picked by candidate Bill Clinton to speak at the Democratic National Convention about his experiences as a person with AIDS.

John Schlafly, son of notorious anti-gay, anti-feminist, anti-abortion, anti-everything Phyllis Schlafly, came out as gay in an interview with the *San Francisco Examiner*. San Francisco physician Dee Mosbacher acknowledged that she's another queer child of the right wing; her father is former Reagan/Bush Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher.

KRON's "special investigative report" on NAMBLA revived yellow journalism in San Francisco, and the Potrero Hill Library, which had been giving the group meeting space, kicked them out. Neo-Nazis (and others) staged noisy protests at KRON's headquarters, making clear that they don't like NAMBLA and they don't like homos.

Richard Hongisto was fired as Chief of Police for his handling of protests over the Rodney King verdict, and for ordering the confiscation of thousands of copies of *Bay Times*, a bi-weekly newspaper. The paper had run a photo montage on its cover that superimposed Hongisto's head on the body of a police woman in riot gear with a baton protruding from his crotch, plus the caption, "Dick's Cool New Tool: Martial Law." ▼

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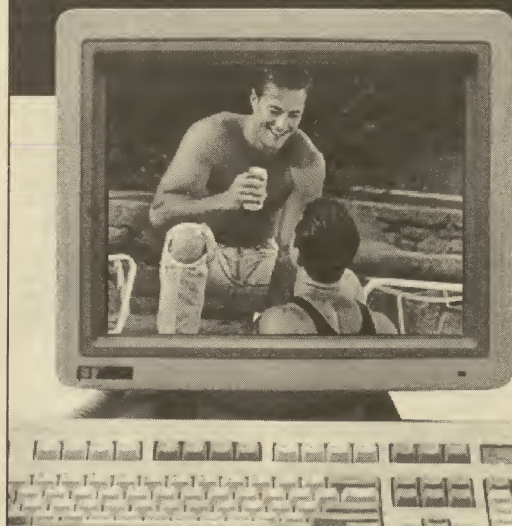
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Clinton fudges military ban on gays

by Wendell Ricketts

William Jefferson Clinton was inaugurated as the 42nd president of the United States and immediately fudged on his campaign pledge to lift the ban on gays in the military. Clinton first agreed to delay a decision for six months for further "discussions"; later he told reporters he would restrict deployment of gays and lesbians "if arguments merit such action." As the six-month period drew to a close, gay Representative Barney Frank of Massachusetts proposed a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" compromise, which the administration gratefully adopted.

Rudolph Nureyev died of AIDS in Paris on January 6 at the

age of 54. Cardiac arrest was listed as the cause of death.

Former AIDS Emergency Fund volunteer Charline McCain was arrested in Lexington, Kentucky for the 1990 theft of \$8,000 in change from the charity.

Dolores Street Baptist Church withdrew from the Southern Baptist Convention of churches because of the 14.5 million member's denomination's anti-gay policies.

Gay sailor Allen Schindler was murdered by Airman Apprentice Terry Helvey, his shipmate.

Close to a million lesbians and gay men staged the third March on Washington in April; although the march proved a great marketing opportunity, the following months proved Larry Kramer was right when he angrily said in his



Everyone's favorite contingent in the 1993 March on Washington, led by the redoubtable Empress I Jose Sarria.

speech on the March's mainstage that "nothing has changed."

On March 15, Mayor Jordan fulfilled a campaign promise by declaring a state of health emergency in San Francisco, which allowed the San Francisco Department of Health to implement legal needle exchange in San Francisco. The move allowed Prevention Point city funding to distribute 15,000 needles a week to injection users.

After an audit revealed that Shanti Project had mismanaged \$2.7 million in city housing contracts, directors Eric Rofes and Melinda Paras resigned in April. Shanti was stripped of the contracts, and owed the city an estimated \$400,000 in misspent funds.

Mayor Frank Jordan fired Human Rights Commissioner Reverend Eugene Lumpkin after Lumpkin said on TV that he supported biblical passages advocating the death penalty for lesbians and gays. Earlier comments by Lumpkin that AIDS was God's wrath on homosexuals were defended by Jordan as free speech.

Clinton nominated SF Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg to the position of Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportu-

nity at HUD. Jerry Falwell and Senator Jesse Helms immediately declared war on "that damned lesbian," using Achtenberg's position on funding for the Boy Scouts as an example of just how un-Amer-

ican queers can be.

San Francisco Latina lesbian attorney and managed healthcare expert Susan Leal was appointed by Mayor Jordan to succeed Achtenberg. ▼



Activists await the arrival of fundies at the Federal Bldg. as part of a planned national day of protesting the military's ban on gays.

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HAPPY 25TH BAY AREA REPORTER!

Epidemic begins

◀ page 51

residences.

Supervisor Carole Ruth Silver had already recommended that the Health Department close the gay bathhouses in San Francisco — prompting safe sex posters and warnings to go up on their walls — and in October, 1984 Health Department Director Dr. Mervyn Silverman closed the 14 baths and sex clubs in the city.

His action came after two years of national media attention over the role of the bathhouses in the spread of AIDS. Most reopened again within hours, as owners got temporary court orders keeping them open, but they were soon ordered closed again, this time for six weeks. A judge later ruled they could reopen if sex monitors patrolled the venues to prevent unsafe sex acts and if private doors were removed.

In January, 1985, according to a B.A.R. story, the FDA announced that AIDS antibodies tests would be available in March after months of Reagan administration "foot-dragging." Gay leaders recommended against taking the tests because they did not diagnose AIDS or contagiousness, just the presence of antibodies.

At the same time, the Federal Office of Technological Assessment completed a report that harshly criticized President Reagan and Health and Human Services Secretary Margaret Heckler for their refusal to recognize the seriousness of AIDS.

In July, 1985, movie star Rock Hudson was discovered to be close to death from the disease in a French clinic, and Joan Rivers was publicly and loudly criticized by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation for saying she wanted any co-star or host to assure her he didn't have AIDS before they kissed. The foundation pointed out that AIDS was not spread by kissing.

On September 17, after five years of the AIDS pandemic — and more than 10,000 cases of AIDS in the United States — President Ronald Reagan finally uttered the word "AIDS," when discussing the Gallo-Montagnier scandal and whether or not schoolchildren with the disease should be kept out of school.

He said he believed they should, and justified defended his AIDS budget.

Reagan's utterance and Hudson's death were pivotal events in national AIDS history because they moved a disease out of the ghettos, and ghettoization, and

firmly into mainstream American consciousness.

And as communities around the country were forced to confront the reality of AIDS, they began to turn increasingly to the San Francisco model of intervention, care, and prevention. Bit by bit the disease began getting more of the mass media's attention, and as medical knowledge started to make some headway against the ignorance of the early years, the fear of the unknown abyss began to lessen.

In the last decade, with the advent of improved drug therapies and social support, the San Francisco gay community has begun to rediscover optimism; now it's possible to think we may be at the beginning of the end of AIDS, instead of simply at the beginning of the end.

In fact, some activists say, after 15 years the gay population has now acclimated to "the plague years" too well, and complacency has replaced denial as its worst problem. Unfortunately, that assessment may be right.

For even after 15 years and medical breakthroughs like protease inhibitors and better prognostic tests, it is still true that the situation will get worse before it gets better, and some more of our friends will fall victim. ▼

25 YEARS

AMENDMENT 2 OVERTURNED

by Wendell Ricketts

The San Francisco Health Commission appointed openly lesbian physician Dr. Sandra Hernandez as Health Department director against the wishes of Mayor Frank Jordan, who initially wanted acting director Flo Stroud appointed to the post but later backed Hernandez.

Attorney General Janet Reno sent federal officers to Ovett, Mississippi to intervene in the harassment and intimidation of Camp Sister Spirit, a "lesbian-feminist education project" whose owners and visitors had been shot at, subjected to bomb scares, and threatened with death.

D.C. activist Luke Sissyfag, 20, staged a series of spectacular public face-downs with President Clinton over his "forgotten AIDS promises." Quickly dubbed "Luke Hissyfit," Sissyfag later cam-

paigned for the D.C. mayorship, claiming that, if he won, he could serve as both mayor and first lady.

The Stonewall '94 celebration, a commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, drew 600,000-800,000 to the festivities in New York City.

President Clinton fired his Surgeon General, Dr. Joycelyn Elders, for suggesting in an interview that positive information about masturbation should be included in a sex-education curriculum for children.

Muckraking journalist Randy Shilts died of AIDS, and Kansas gay-baiter Fred Phelps vowed to come to San Francisco to disrupt the funeral; when they showed up at Glide Memorial Church, Phelps and his minions were beaten back under a hail of raw eggs.

A federal jury found that SF Police Chief Richard Hongisto, who ordered his cops to seize

some 2,000 copies of the *Bay Times* because the cover bore an unflattering image of him, was guilty of a civil rights violation.

Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City* aired on PBS and, despite its success, PBS later declined to produce a sequel. A PBS spokesperson insisted that the decision was in no way influenced

by the threats of Reverend Donald Wildmon and his American Family Association to "shut PBS down."

Amendment 2, passed by Colorado voters in November 1992, was overturned as unconstitutional by the state Supreme Court. Drafters of the measure, which sought to make it illegal for

any agency in the state to enforce or adopt any law protecting lesbian/gay civil rights, vowed to take it to the U.S. Supreme Court

In December, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed landmark legislation that outlawed bias in housing and employment against transgendered persons. ▼

1994

SACTO ASSEMBLY PASSES BILL TO SHIELD CRYBABY CHURCHERS

by Dennis Conkin,
July 28, 1994

The California State Assembly has passed a measure sponsored by the Traditional Values Coalition (TVC) that increases jail time and other penalties for protesters who intentionally disrupt religious services.

The measure is scheduled for a hearing before the Senate Appropriations Committee in early August.

The bill, introduced by Assemblyman Gil Ferguson, R-Balboa Island, stems from a protest by lesbian and gay activists during TVC leader Lou Sheldon's appearance at San Francisco's Hamilton Square Baptist Church last September.

The measure would amend state law to increase the maximum jail sentences upon conviction of the offense, from six months to one year in county jail.

The minimum community service required of first offenders sentenced to community service as an alternative to imprisonment would increase from a minimum of 50 to a maximum of 80 hours, according to the provisions of the measure.

Second offense community service penalties would increase to 120-160 hours — in addition to any fine or imprisonment.

Under Ferguson's bill, a court would also have the discretion to sentence an offender to perform the community service where the disturbance of religious worship occurred.

The measure passed the Assembly last May by a 64-7 vote. It sailed through the Senate Judiciary Committee with little opposition in June.

Legislation against disturbing religious meetings became state law in 1872 and was amended in 1990, at the request of the TVC, to

create community service requirements. That amendment also added a provision that the religious meeting take place at a tax-exempt place of worship.

The measure is opposed on constitutional grounds by California Attorneys For Criminal Justice, according to lobbyist Kathy Dreyfus.

Dreyfus said that allowing the religious right to enact special legislation benefiting churches violates constitutional separations of church and state. She also said that the measure violates the first amendment of the U.S. constitution guaranteeing free speech rights.

"If they are going to increase penalties for intentionally disrupting a religious assemblage, then why not increase it for intentional disturbances of any groups — or of health clinics or political organizations or religious organizations?" Dreyfus asked.

"Why does society make it more heinous for people to disrupt a church service? Who are these people in our society that they get this kind of treatment?" she asked.

Following the protest of Sheldon's appearance at the site, HSQB leaders charged that activists had attempted to deny worshippers entrance to the site, scratched the wife of a well-known local fundamentalist pastor, tossed a patio bench into the church fountain, run the Rainbow Flag up the church flagpole, and stolen a wooden address number from the side of the church building.

Although police were present at the demonstration, no arrests were made at the site.

However, seven months after the protest, alleged participants Paul Bernardino and Lee Wildes were arrested and charged in connection with the disturbance.

Neither have been arraigned on the charges at press time. ▼



All the fixin's: Carl Tebell and Allen Stahl check their ham and sweet potatoes prior to the annual Tenderloin Tessie free Easter dinner.

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AIDS CASES IN U.S. REACH HALF-MILLION

by Dennis Conkin

In January, the Board of Supervisors announced it would hold hearings into charges of brutality by police and state Alcohol and Beverage Control members at a South of Market New Year's Eve AIDS benefit. Partygoers charged that police raided the event without cause, then refused to identify themselves, punched and kicked people, illegally seized property, made false arrests, and used anti-gay slurs such as "fucking faggots" and "AIDS-infected faggots" during the raid.

Police Chief Anthony Ribera defended the officers, but arrest charges against 11 patrons were quickly dropped, and police promised their own investigation. Attorney Nancy Clarence launched a federal civil rights lawsuit on behalf of several plaintiffs injured in the police action, and the Office of Citizen Complaints began its own probe.

By year's end six officers would be charged with misconduct, including Southern Station Police Captain Michael Yalon. In 1996 newly appointed Chief of Police Fred Lau would recommend to the Police Commission that two officers be fired from the force for their roles in the melee.

Gay activist/teacher/comedian and former president of the SF Board of Education Tom Ammi-ano was sworn in as a member of the Board of Supervisors.

Longtime gay liberation activist Konstantin Berlandt died of AIDS at the age of 48. Berlandt was the former editor of the UC Berkeley *Daily Cal* in the late '60s.

On January 17, a Boston federal judge ordered the City of Boston to grant a St. Patrick's Day parade permit to a group of veterans, and said permit holders could exclude lesbian and gay Irish organizations from participating in the parade.

March Finch, the 33-year-old exhibitions director for Frameline, the producing group of the annual San Francisco Lesbian and

Gay Film Festival, committed suicide by jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge on January 14.

KSFO radio shock jock J. Paul Emerson broadcast calls for the quarantine of people with AIDS, which he said was an airborne disease. KSFO brass initially refused to correct the misinformation and stood by Emerson as the lesbian and gay community launched a boycott of the station. He was later fired and KSFO ran a few educational AIDS public service announcements.

Local philanthropist and community leader James Hormel was named as a delegate to the 51st United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. Hormel had been widely rumored to be in the running for a Clinton administration post as U.S. Ambassador to Fiji.

A rehearing was postponed in a Hawaii court case challenging the constitutionality of the state's ban on same-sex marriage. The Hawaii Supreme Court

had ruled in 1993 that the state was required to show a "compelling interest" to justify the ban, stemming for a 1990 class action lawsuit by three same-sex couples denied licenses to marry by the state.

The United States Supreme Court agreed in February to review Colorado's Amendment 2, which prohibit laws that protect gays and lesbians from discrimination. A lower federal court had struck down the law, which voters passed in 1992.

In February, "The Widow Milk," Scott Smith, former lover to slain Supervisor Harvey Milk and custodian of Milk's archives, died of AIDS at San Francisco General Hospital at the age of 46.

Supervisor Carole Migden announced in March that the SF Board of Supervisors would hold hearings on the water- and fecal-borne parasite cryptosporidium, and its effect on the San Francisco water supply.

The Montana State Senate voted to require gays and lesbians convicted of violating the state's sodomy law to register as sex of-



Openly gay former pro baseball player and Oakland resident Glenn Burke died of AIDS.

fenders with law enforcement officials – then reversed itself the next day. National lesbian and gay criticism and the threat of boycotts forced the reversal.

Former Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg announced in April she would leave her job as Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to run for mayor of San Francisco.

A Federal Court judge in New York ruled that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" unconstitutionally violated free speech and equal protection, in the first legal challenge to the law passed by Congress in 1992. The U.S. Department of Justice announced it would appeal the ruling.

Dr. Dean Freeman, a gay San Francisco General Hospital psychiatrist, was charged in May with attempted murder for the 1994 ax stabbing of Mario Mondelli, a former patient with whom Freeman had become sexually involved. He posted \$75,000 bail and was released.

After a difficult negotiating period, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation became the first local AIDS non-profit agency to become unionized. Workers voted to be represented by the Service Employees International Union Local 790 for a two-year contract period.

A gay man attending the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial on Sunday, May 21 was found dead in a Hayes Valley carport a few blocks from the scene. William O'Shea had been shot once in the head, according to homicide inspector Alex Fagan.

A deputy state attorney general was removed from the defense of gays in the military case after he compared California Army National Guard Andrew Holmes to "molesters and pederasts" and said gay sex acts were "nasty habits." Right wing state Attorney General Dan Lungren apologized and said the comments did not represent his views.

In June, the Mayor of Alameda refused to sign a lesbian and gay pride Month proclamation, and activists began an intensive organizing effort in the area. Gay biotech businessman Morten Wellhaven withdrew \$1.25 million in corporate banking funds from the local Bank of America branch and a Deborah Grossberg, the lesbian owner of a T-shirt company based in Point Richmond, announced she would sever all ties with the city.

President Bill Clinton apologized several days after White House guards donned rubber gloves as two dozen lesbian and gay officials from around the country passed through security checkpoints. They had been invit-

ed to a White House conference organized by Supervisor Susan Leal on behalf of the Clinton administration.

In July, four members of ACT UP/San Francisco were arrested and jailed on felony malicious mischief, burglary, and conspiracy charges after 15 members of the group occupied the Van Ness Street offices of the SF Republican party. During their protest, they smeared red oil-based paint on walls and office equipment, plastered stickers, and hung effigies of Governor Pete Wilson, state Attorney General Dan Lungren, and North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms from the balcony. The charges were later reduced to misdemeanors.

Retired Episcopal Bishop Walter Righter was told he would face heresy charges for ordaining openly gay Barry Stopfel as a priest. Righter "was teaching a doctrine contrary to that held by this church," conservative bishops said in an August vote.

A ten-second blood test capable of detecting the human immunodeficiency virus was developed and readied for use in India, which was expected to have the world's largest HIV-positive population by the year 2000.

In September, security staff removed a Canadian national from the plenary session of the Fourth UN Conference on Women in China, after she helped unfurl a banner that proclaimed "Lesbian Rights Are Human Rights."

Attorneys announced a settlement by former HIV educator and Encinal High School coach Alvin Pickett against the Alameda County Unified School District. The popular educator had been subjected to anti-gay and AIDSphobic comments by other coaches after his HIV status became known at the school.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors named October Breast Cancer Month in the city, to call attention to the high rate of the illness among local women – particularly among lesbians – and to expand a detection and education program.

In October, the California State Board of Education voted to adopt a multimedia health curriculum text despite protests from right wing groups. The text was only "mildly inclusive" to lesbians and gays, noted a *Bay Area Reporter* story.

In October, a 37-year-old Iranian lesbian feminist poet was granted political asylum in San Francisco by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, on the grounds she would be persecuted if she returned to her native land. Also in October, the Elephant

Walk bar lost its lease, underscoring concern that the Castro district was becoming a strip mall. Landlord Paul Langley raised the rent on the popular bar and restaurant at the corner of 18th and Castro 65 percent, from \$13,500 to \$21,000 a month.

A state Commission of Teacher Credentialing said two San Francisco schoolteachers should be suspended for allowing sixth grade students to hear an explicit description of gay sex in 1992. A complaint had been filed by a local parent who alleged that a Community United Against speaker explained to students how she used a dildo. CUAV flatly disputed published version of the incident, and said its speakers no longer answer questions about their personal sex lives if students ask.

Federal health authorities were reporting a sharp rise in deaths associated with the use of methamphetamines, and the gay community was coming out of denial about the widespread use of the drug in the community.

In December, 27-year-old Robert James Acremant was arrested for the execution-style murders of Medford, Oregon lesbian partners Michelle Abdill and Roxanne Ellis. Acremant was also suspected – and later charged with – the murder of 25-year-old Visalia, California resident Scott George.

Activists from ACT UP/Golden Gate and other groups charged cost-cutting managed care practices at Kaiser Hospital jeopardized the lives of people with AIDS.

By World AIDS Day, December 1, the total number of AIDS cases reported in the United States reached the half million mark, with the epidemic growing fastest in the South and Midwest. Sixty-two percent of all the cases reported since 1981 had died, according to a UPI wire service report, and the epidemic was hitting minorities disproportionately hard. AIDS rates were six times higher among blacks and three times higher among Hispanics than among whites. Nearly half the cases – 250,000 – had been reported between 1993-95. The percentage of heterosexual transmission had increased from three percent in 1981-87 to ten percent of those cases reported between 1993-95. The number of cases in women had jumped from eight percent in 1987 to 18 percent from 1993-95.

Bay Area activist Jeff Getty received an unprecedented bone marrow transplant from a baboon after a two-year battle to get the "xenotransplant" approved. Doctors hoped the procedure would restore his immune system because baboons are immune to AIDS.

A new class of AIDS-fighting drugs, protease inhibitors, finally made it to market. Studies showed that when they are used with nucleoside analogues in triple therapy, protease inhibitors can reduce the amount of virus in patients' bloodstreams. Unfortunately, some evidence indicates the drugs may not work in up to a third of the population.

Former state Assembly Speaker Willie Brown won the December 12 run-off elections to become the first African-American mayor of San Francisco, soundly beating incumbent Mayor Frank Jordan. Supervisor Terence Hallinan became the District Attorney. ▼

CALL FOR WRITERS



The Lambda 10 Project plans to publish a non-fiction book of personal stories from gay fraternity men and their experiences with being gay in a fraternity.

The Lambda 10 Project hopes to create a heightened "visibility" of gay men and their contributions as brothers to all Greek fraternities.

IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT:

ATTN: S. Windmeyer, Editor
Indiana University Office of Student Ethics and
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705 E. 7th Street
Bloomington, IN 47405-3809
lambda10@indiana.edu
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Fax: 812-855-4465



What's next?

Where we've been and where we're heading

by Assemblywoman
Carole Migden

As I join the State Assembly as an openly lesbian member, I can't help but remember that one of Harvey Milk's dreams was to have one of our own at the decision-making table in Sacramento. He would have been proud of Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl, and he would have been proud of my taking the seat that he first sought for our community.

I remember when I was first elected to the Board of Supervisors, the press always referred to me as "lesbian Supervisor Carole Migden," as if I was a single-issue legislator. It took years of work on the budget, environmental protection, government reform, crime prevention, transportation and other issues before the press realized that lesbian and gay elected officials worked as dutifully on all of the important challenges facing government as their non-lesbian and gay counterparts.

We've also made gains in

state levels, including under GOP governors in Wisconsin and Massachusetts. Moreover, President Clinton has promised to sign a federal lesbian and gay job protection bill, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

However, lesbians and gays are still targets of the far right; we're demonized for fundraising purposes and misrepresented in order to polarize voters to win elections. I suppose it would be easy to be pessimistic in a political climate where Pat Buchanan is winning GOP primaries and the Christian Coalition controls the newly-elected Republican class in the United States Congress and the California State Assembly. But I believe we have reason to be optimistic about our future.

The fact that we're on the political agenda means that our issues are being discussed. Twenty years ago, Senator Sam Nunn wouldn't have been discussing gays in the military, Senator Orrin Hatch wouldn't have been talking about queer curricula in the schools, Governor Pete Wilson wouldn't have a gay marriage bill possibly heading his way, and Speaker Newt Gingrich wouldn't be struggling with job discrimination protections for lesbians and gays.

The civil rights struggles of today are about lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender people—our healthcare needs, our youth and our right to live, work and



Carole Migden: "Harvey Milk would not be a novelty in today's world."

No one ever said the struggle for equality and opportunity would be an easy one, but it is within our reach.

We have made great advances since Harvey Milk led our nascent lesbian and gay movement almost two decades ago, but we still have a long, difficult road ahead of us.

Electoral, we've fared well, as lesbians and gays have been elected to hundreds of local and state offices throughout the country. We've elected mayors, councilmembers, assemblymembers, members of Congress from both political parties, and even the president of the Minnesota State Senate. And these successes haven't come in just California or Massachusetts, but in Oregon, Washington, Florida, Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Maine, Vermont, and even Texas.

Sexual orientation is no longer an issue with many voters in this country and Harvey Milk would not be a novelty in today's world.

passing domestic partnership ordinances. For instance, there are currently over a thousand municipalities, corporations, and academic institutions which have domestic partners benefits. In San Francisco, we founded domestic partnerships and I have authored a ballot initiative that granted retirement benefits, and we recently passed the ordinance that allows the city to perform civil ceremonies for domestic partners.

We've changed perceptions in the media, as witnessed by the current proliferation of positive lesbian and gay-themed movies in release and on video, including *French Twist*, *The Birdcage*, and *The Celluloid Closet*.

The lesbian and gay community has also gained job and housing protections on the local and

love. Just as women, African-Americans, and others make progress in their struggles for civil rights, we too, will prevail.

Harvey Milk's vision of having lesbians and gays in power will reap its rewards as we sit at the table to discuss the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, AIDS education or whether we should have the right to marry. Our presence and our perseverance will change both hearts and minds.

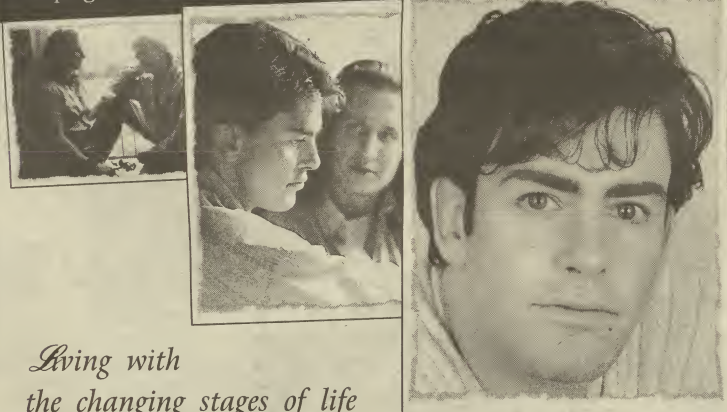
No one ever said the struggle for equality and opportunity would be an easy one, but it is within our reach. Each and every one of us should redouble our commitment to make a difference and change the world, so that 25 years from now, when the B.A.R. celebrates its 50th year of service to the community, we can look back and remember when a cure for AIDS and our civil rights were merely a dream. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Cable Car Harvey Milk Community Service Award winners

- 1980 - Gwen Craig and Paul Bently
- 1981 - Lesbian/gay delegates to the 1980 Democratic National Convention
- 1982 - Gordon Armstrong, Mary Dunlap
- 1983 - Athletes of Gay Games
- 1984 - Jim Hormel and Jose Sarria
- 1985 - Matt Coles and Pat Norman
- 1986 - Rikki Strelcher and Hank Wilson
- 1987 - Gay Games II: Dr. Tom Waddell, board of directors and volunteers
- 1988 - The Names Project: Cleve Jones, Michael Smith, board of directors and volunteers
- 1989 - Supervisor Harry Britt and Bill Paul
- 1990 - Hank Plante
- 1991 - Judge Donna Hitchens, Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg, Supervisor Carole Migden, Board of Education Member Tom Ammannio
- 1992 - Barbara Cameron, Danny Williams
- 1993 - Hydrie Downard, Paul Wotman
- 1994 - Julie Dorff, Walter Leiss
- 1995 - Lieutenant Commander Zoe Dunning, Bob Ross
- 1996 - ?

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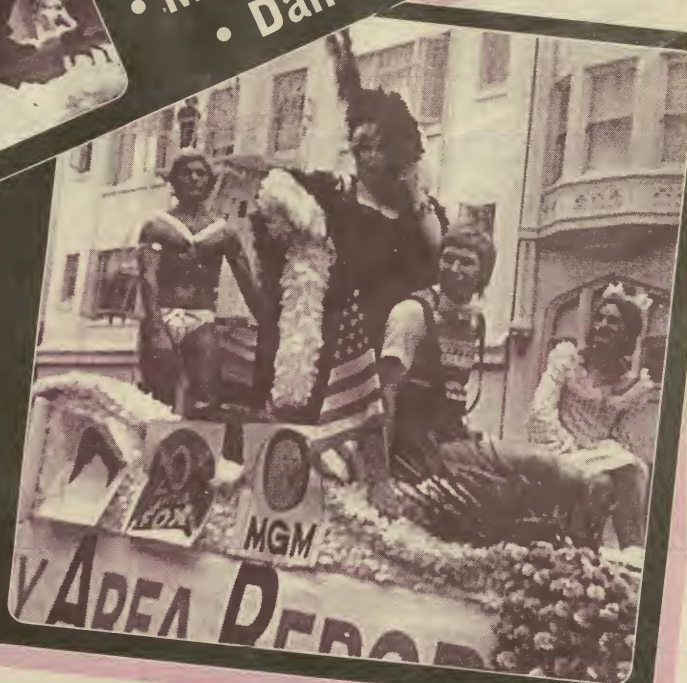
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P L E A S U R E D O M E

1 7 7 T o w n s e n d

Muralists Evans and Brown
bring patrons of the New Main Library
"Into the Light."

page 77

Meet Richard Labonte
industrious champion
of queer literature.

page 74



Roberto Friedman
visits Jacks, where all
business is strictly pleasure.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 26 • No. 14 • 4 April 1996



Steve Savage

A gadfly comes of age

Rhino's thick-skinned
thespians prevail in the
best and worst of times

by Chad Jones

In nature, the rhinoceros is a placid, peace-loving animal, but when provoked, this gentle beast will put its frontal horn to good and painful use. A creature of such violent contrast might not, on the surface, seem an appropriate namesake for a theater, but when that theater is devoted solely to the production and development of work by lesbian and gay artists, having a sharp, protective horn — even if it is only metaphorical — can come in handy when forging through a world too often culturally and socially intolerant.

For 18 years, Theatre Rhinoceros has fought valiantly, triumphed mightily, suffered overwhelming loss, come to the abyss of non-existence, struggled back to the top and managed to maintain within its ranks a defiant sense of pride, and perhaps more importantly, humor. In short, it has been an adventure — one that continues every day the theater remains open to produce another play by or about lesbians and gay men.

Allan Estes and Lanny Banguiet found-

ed Theatre Rhinoceros in 1977, mostly as a reaction to Estes not being accepted into the Gay Men's Theatre Collective. After a bumpy start with some less-than-inspired productions in the Gay Community Center on Grove Street (now a parking garage), and with the pluck and determination of a Mickey Rooney-Judy Garland "Let's put on a show!" plot, Estes and Banguiet finally landed a hot property in Doric Wilson's *West Street Gang* and managed to stage the play in the Black And Blue, a popular South of Market haunt. When the play turned into

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Queers on queers

That was then,
this is now

by Robert Julian

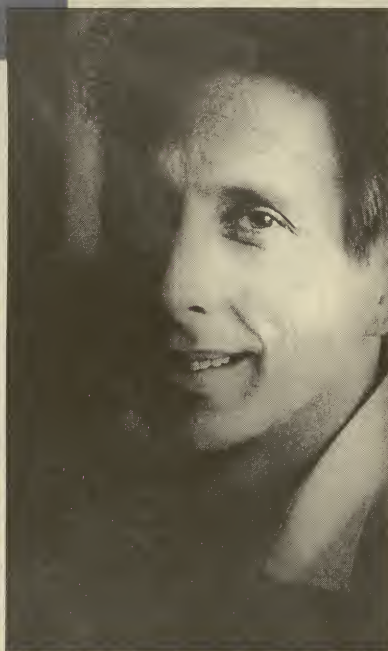
I remember when the *Bay Area Reporter* was little more than a flyer, a few sheets of paper you grabbed on the way out of the bar on a Saturday night. The year was 1974; I was new in town and the concept of "gay journalism" had never occurred to me. Local gay publications across the country had limited, but crucially important, agendas. They announced to the world that we were, indeed, here and queer, with brief stories about the bar world, parties, or special events. They also let the world at large know that when queers were busted on some trumped-up charge like "accosting and soliciting" or "lewd and lascivious behavior," someone would be watching and reporting on the event. We weren't yet as mad as hell, but we certainly weren't going to take it anymore.

Times changed.

We're still not taking it anymore, but now we are mad as hell — mad because twentysomething years after the gay liberation movement began, we're still not where we should be — or where we thought we would be as the century drew to a close. Putting aside the loss of friends and family — if such a thing is possible — AIDS cost us ten, maybe twenty years. Straight people went into fear — big

page 83 ►

Not everything at Rhino is a fleshtacular, but last year's *The Desk Set* was a hit. Pictured here: Colman Domingo, Doug Holsclaw, P.A. Cooley and Brad Smith.



Beth Knaucka

Michael Callen: let history judge

A belated appreciation

by Wendell Ricketts

"Have I been so woefully misunderstood that people actually think my death will represent a repudiation of my message of hope?"

— Michael Callen, "In My Time of Dying"

No history of gay and lesbian life in the 1980s would be complete without a consideration of the impact of AIDS, and no assessment of community responses to the AIDS epidemic would be complete without a tribute to the life, work and activism of the late Michael Callen. A co-founder of the People with AIDS Coalition, the National Association of People with AIDS, and the Community Research Initiative, and the long-time editor of the PWA Newsline, Callen was diagnosed with Gay-Related Immunodeficiency

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THIRD OF THREE SECTIONS

by Hera Cain
and Pithy Galore

Running Scared: Actress Amanda Plummer is preparing herself for some nasty press. Seems the actress, so memorable in *Pulp Fiction*, isn't interested in answering pesky questions about why she's playing a lesbian serial killer in *Butterfly Kiss*, opening later this month in commercial release. Plummer was all set up to discuss the unpleasant role with B.A.R.'s Manhattan-based film critic Brandon Judell, only last Friday Brandy received a call from Plummer's people, who told his phone machine, "We're cancelling all gay publications. We don't want to be affiliated with the gay community."

Later, in a one-on-one phone conversation with Amanda's publicist, Brandy was told that "Amanda is a very big star and that she has to see which gay publications she wants to be in because some of them are porno." Oh, how amusing. Amanda's flacks are worried about purity of image when she's starring in a flick about a homicidal lesbian who has 17 tattoos and wears chain mail undies? Pathetic.

Desperate remedies

So why did that big-mouthed comedian ex-pal of Madonna take that gig on a gay cruise, only to berate her audience and generally act the fool? Is she that greedy,

that desperate? Perhaps she has burned her bridges with the TV show run by another Big-Mouthed Comedian? Only big mouth No. 1 knows for sure, but what we know is that after her petty outburst she exited the cruise at the next port. (Good riddance.)

Oxymoronic

It was premature of us to report two weeks ago that there was nothing to report about those two warring celebrities who showed up at the premiere of their mutual project, *The Celluloid Closet* at the Castro Theatre a few weeks back. Well, a little bird (actually a bloated puffin) has told us that things were only simpatico on the surface. Apparently after the screening when Mr. Out or

Nothing trundled up to the Dinner Tent to partake of the champagne and canapés, he was turned away. Can you imagine?

Our little busybody reported that there was considerable huffing and puffing, anguished expressions of bitter consternation and

much tortuous head-swiveling. (Hell hath no fury like a gourmand scorned.) But as one very intelligent lesbian separatist friend of ours observed, "If you're really an activist you should expect to be turned away at the Dinner Tent." World-historical activism of the kind so dear to Mr. Out or Nothing's heart is always antithetical to Dinner Tents. (Which probably explains why Karl



La Belle de Jour

Marx's few intimate friends all worked at the British Museum, his home away from home.) Perhaps a certain person should learn to put his money where his mouth is?

French Bitch

Neckdeep in bubble bath, Hera Caen was wondering why a

Paris-based multinational film star with an audience of billions would suck the blood of an Ess Eff-based national magazine with only 16,000 subscribers?

1. Because (rumor has it) a misguided fan asked *La Belle de Jour* to sign a copy of her lesbian glossy namesake. 2. Because hell hath no fury like a woman who has spent her entire career creating an *image de marque* only to discover someone has been trading on it without her permission. 3. Because she can.

With hindsight, publisher Frances "Franco" Stevens would probably never have named her rag after a commercial entity with the selling power of Garbo, Chanel and Veuve Cliquot combined. Then again, someone who'd name herself after a dead fascist dictator might have an incurable case of Name Recognition Disorder.

Generalissima's excuse that she named the bimonthly "after a former girlfriend" smells like *mauvaise foi* and is interesting chiefly for its Freudian implications. A public relations gaffe, the unconvincing denial insults not only the intelligence of her readers, but — *beaucoup plus grave* — the vanity of Madame.

But is that any reason to vampirize the only national magazine for lesbians in the U.S.? (Unless you count *Girlfriends*.) And to embroil the glossy publisher in a year-long legal battle for which she lacks the chops?

You're probably wondering, along with *The Columnist*, why Franco and Company didn't speak up as soon as *la merde* hit *le ventilateur*? Why they didn't publicize — i.e., politicize their predicament? Why the Lesbian Avengers weren't inspired to take direct action? Why the French Bitch's reliance on audience good will wasn't used against her, karate-style, to make her drop the whip — I mean lawsuit? Why Paris' own *Lesbia* magazine wasn't enrolled in a campaign to girlcott Le Star's films?

Your guess is as good as The Editor's. This much is certain. Having ignored the equation Silence=Death, Stevens has legally bound herself and staff not to speak about *l'affaire*. And they're respecting the prohibition to the letter — which is more respect than it deserves — and more than

any self-respecting — *francaise* would give it.

The question is: has the newly rebaptized *Curve* been relegated to the ranks of the undead? Let's hope not. Let's all rally 'round on Sunday, May 19, when DJ extraordinaire Page Hodel presents a star-studded benefit and auction.

Space Pussy

A few weeks back we reported on one Ryan Landry, a struggling scribe who caught our attention when he wrote something delightfully sordid about Eric Roberts' toe jam in an egregious gay rag called *In Newsweekly*. We didn't expect to hear much about Ms. Landry again, owing to her unstable sinecure, but, lo and behold, we've just learned from roving ne'er-do-well Portia Capplethwaite that Landry is a big deal in the thriving "performing arts" scene (read: foam parties) in glamorous South Beach, Florida.

Ms. C., who was there last week attending a speculation trade show, made the discovery one night while drinking herself into a stupor at the popular Amnesia club. She had no idea that the "hot butch stud" who came on stage "wearing a mini-skirt and green panties" was Landry, however, until the singer introduced himself and his band, Space Pussy. Needless to say, Miss C. was nonplussed.

Portia had high praise for SP's performance, especially "the superbly shaped effulgence" of "Planet Claire," a classic from Missy Portia's stomach-turning youth. And though Landry was not quite "a cultural phenomenon like our own Queen Mange (the late Jerome), he blew the audience away."

It was only later, in her valium-induced sleep, that Portia realized where she'd first seen Queen Landry: at Provincetown the year before, where the singer, decked out in mini-skirt and tattered green panties, sang Lou Reed's "Walk on the Wild Side" while pelting the audience with strips of rotting liver. Go, girl.

Boner of the Week

What prominent local filmmaker (the subject of his most celebrated opus was sex) was seen after the Patti Smith concert last week with a handsome, 26-year-old stud in tow? We aren't going to print any names here (we're sick, not tacky), but we can say things are starting to look a lot like love.

Marcutizing

How does Eric Marcus get those book contracts? It's amazing to us, seeing as his oeuvre, which includes *Is It A Choice? Answers to 300 of the Most Frequently Asked Questions About Gays and Lesbians* and *The Male Couple's Guide*, is so thin. His latest waste of time is *Why Suicide? Answers to 200 of the Most Frequently Asked Questions About Suicide* (Harper-San Francisco, \$12.95). In these pages Marcus sets out to answer such lofty questions as: "What country has the highest suicide rate?"; "Does rock music cause suicide?"; "How do people commit suicide?" and many other seemingly thin questions that consistently avoid philosophical heft. What amazes us is that nowhere in this book does the name Albert Camus appear, amazing considering the French philosopher's *The Myth of Sisyphus* is perhaps the most eloquent exploration on the subject ever written. That his name isn't even mentioned in passing seems a hefty oversight on the part of the author and his editors. ▼

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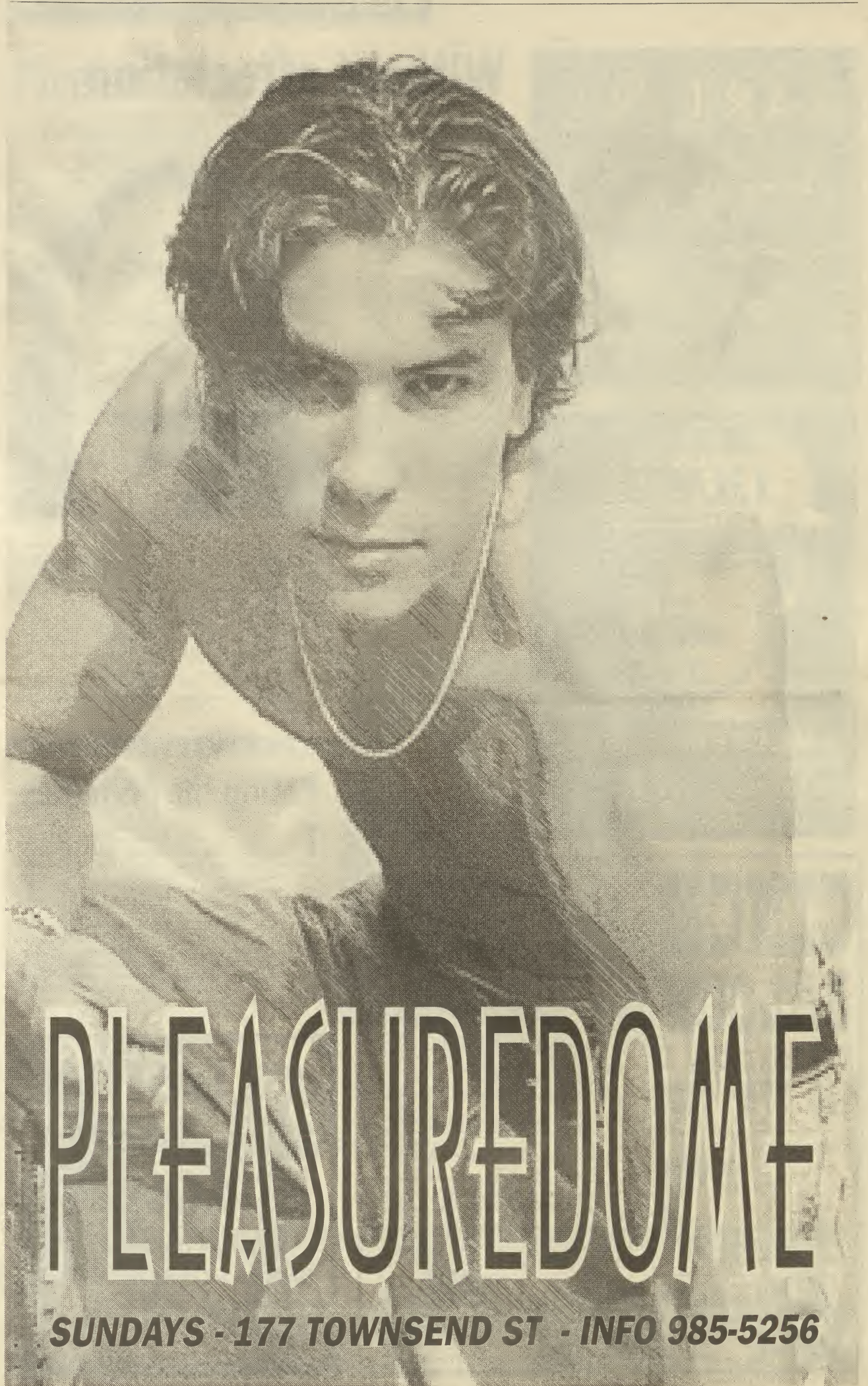
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Without affectation

by Chad Jones

The artistry of a finely-crafted, soulful pop song lies in its simplicity and integrity. Jimmy Webb, one of the premier tunesmiths of this — or any — era, knows just about everything there is to know about the popular song, including the one thing so many songwriters forget: keep it honest.

Webb is currently wrapping up a two-week stint at the Fairmont's cozy New Orleans Room with a veritable hit parade of his own tunes, including "MacArthur Park," "By the Time I Get To Phoenix," "Wichita Lineman" and "Up, Up and Away." To describe Webb's unique talent both as songwriter and performer is difficult because he encompasses so many styles yet manages to be completely original and completely himself. With charm, humor and understated showmanship, Webb assays his songbook full of sumptuous love songs, and though he does not possess what would normally be considered a pure vocal instrument, there is no better interpreter of these songs than the songwriter himself. Music seems to pour from Webb, who is a cross between Lorenz Hart and Billy Joel, or Cole Porter and Randy Newman. At times his piano sounds miraculously like an entire orchestra, and he makes each tortured paean to love live through his intense emotional conviction.

For the past decade, the 49-year-old Webb (he was only 20 when he started churning out hits) has been trying to write a successful Broadway musical. He has written seven shows so far, but not one has been produced. Based on the "show tunes" Webb performs in his cabaret act, the shows sound more than worthy of commercial production. Maybe that's the problem: they're too good; you can't shove Carol Channing into them. From his show *Instant*



Jimmy Webb

Intimacy, Webb sang the wistful "Wasn't There a Moment" and introduced the title song from *If You Love Me, Love My Dog*. Both songs were poignant and direct, light on schmaltz but heavy on melancholia — in other words, just what you would expect from the man who penned "Didn't We" and "The Moon's a Harsh Mistress."

Truly a master of his craft, Jimmy Webb is a gifted performer and songwriter who carries off his

cabaret act with self-effacing aplomb. His is an aching heart that beats through every lyric. He joins the pantheon of great American songwriters who successfully capture their worlds and their hearts in their music. ▼

Jimmy Webb's show at the Fairmont's New Orleans Room continues through April 6. Call 772-5259 for information.

TELEVISION

Rating the primaries

The April edition of *In the Life* airs locally April 10 on KQED-9 at 11 p.m. The broadcast looks at politics and the press to see how issues of concern to gays and lesbians are being addressed during this recent primary season. *In the Life* talks to politicians, voters, and heads of political action committees about the current election landscape, and to gay and lesbian reporters to get their take on how much accurate information on gay issues gets to citizens from the source.

Also, political humorist Kate Clinton interviews the gay "first family" of Washington, D.C. — U.S. Congressman Barney Frank and his lover of nine years, Herb Moses. Other stories look at the information gap on health issues for lesbians and several stops at the theater, with solo performance artist Susan Miller, Michael Kearns and Marga Gomez, who will perform excerpts from her acclaimed one-woman play, *A Line Around the Block*. ▼

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DANCE

Fire and ice

Berman/Zelensky outshine Loscavio/Possokhov in 'Swan Lake'

by Stephanie von Buchau

As someone who grew up on story ballets — I saw my first *Sleeping Beauty* in 1950 — nothing makes me more furious than so-called balletomanes who talk about "Makarova's Juliet" or "Misha's Albrecht" as if they were the only characters on stage. Contrary to what these star fuckers seem to think, a story ballet requires chemistry between two dancers. Anyone who saw the San Francisco Ballet's revival of Helgi Tomasson's 1988 *Swan Lake* over the weekend at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall knows exactly what I am talking about.

For the opening night, Tomasson chose his current muse, Elizabeth Loscavio, to dance Odette (the girl trapped in the body of a swan) and Odile (the evil daughter of the magician Rothbart, who tricks the Prince into betraying his vow of love for Odette). Prince Siegfried was danced by her regular partner, the handsome but uninteresting Yuri Possokhov. On Sunday night, Joanna Berman finally got to present her Odette/Odile (she's had injury and partner problems) with a guest artist, Igor Zelensky from the Kirov, via New York City Ballet.

Guess which cast provided the proper dramatic/romantic *frisson*? It wasn't the wholesome Loscavio and Possokhov, despite their lyrical dancing and partnering security, which the other couple couldn't be expected to match in a one-night stand. On the other hand, you know how much fun "strangers in the night" encounters can be. Berman was clearly nervous in the "White Swan pas de deux" (and I didn't care for conductor Emil de Cou's quickish tempo for much of the adagio — though the dancers may have requested it; slowly unfolding poses are very hard when you've only just been introduced).

By the third act "Black Swan pas de deux," Berman and Zelensky were cooking. Though neither Loscavio nor Berman managed the full 32 fouettes, I've always felt emphasis on that circus trick is exaggerated. Better she should be utterly alluring in a nasty, Sharon Stone manner, offering herself and then retreating until the poor Prince is in a froth of frustrated desire. (In the eight years of this production, nobody has ever matched Ludmila Lopukhova and Simon Dow in the cruel eroticism of this scene; she used to snatch her hand away from him with such dominatrix glee.)

Loscavio negates her exquisite line, fluid arms and stretched arabesque with that all-purpose, adenoidal smile and a blandness that makes her barely able to suggest one character, much less two. Berman hasn't got Odette down either, though the human trapped inside the swan is well-suggested. Plus, I loved her exit with her back to the audience, in the manner of Makarova and other Russians, leaving you with an afterimage of pure feathery flight.

But, of course, *Swan Lake* is a love story, set to some of the most romantic music ever written. If the ballerina's partner doesn't show her off lovingly — the way Ivan Nagy used to visually caress Makarova, so that we understood how fascinating he found her — then you are just watching technique. At three hours-plus, I'd

rather not watch just technique. Possokhov handles Loscavio very well; he's strong and handsome, but I get no "connection" from them, no electricity. The final sequence, which was a mess with them, looked like different, almost coherent choreography with Berman and Zelensky.

Zelensky may not be to everybody's taste — though tush watchers will think they have died and gone to heaven. He's your standard Russian ploughboy, somewhat like the late Alexander Godunov, though a much better dancer. Blond, hunky and placid, his interesting eyes and pouty lips keep him from insipidity, and his thick, muscular thighs make him a natural lifter. Berman floated up off the ground, though coming down was sometimes an adventure. That and her off-center pirouettes were signs of unfamiliarity with her new partner; they had less than a week to rehearse.

They got maximum mileage

out of the final pas de deux, that Tomasson invention using music not from the original *Swan Lake*. It arrives in an uncomfortable key, but works when your lead couple is into its melting melancholy. Besides that, Zelensky has a high, airy jump and quiet authority — especially when facing Jorge Esquivel's overwrought Rothbart. It would be nice to get him to guest here more often.

Otherwise, the show looks good, even on the shallow Zellerbach stage. The music and Jens-Jacob Worsaae's costumes, as always, are worth the price of admission. The women's corps was breathtaking and the demi-soloists — especially Julia Adam, Peter Brandenhoff, Sherri LeBlanc, Jose Martin and Yuan Yuan Tan — made the moments between the romance spring to life. This is a *Swan Lake* worth seeing more than once, especially if you can catch Berman and Zelensky. ▼



Igor Zelensky and Joanna Berman in *Swan Lake*. The program continues through April 13 at Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley. For tickets call the San Francisco Ballet at 865-2000.

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The Book Man

Richard Labonte is grand purveyor of lavender wisdom

by Paul Bollwinkel

If you've lived in San Francisco long enough, the Castro most likely seems like a neighborhood in constant transition. Bars change hands and names. The Star Pharmacy becomes Walgreen's. Noah's Bagels and Pasqua Coffee move in. Newcomers are gone before you know it. But try to picture the neighborhood without its handful of institutions: Twin Peaks, Cliffs, or the Castro Theatre. Imagine walking past Rolling Pin Donuts without seeing *A Different Light*, the gay and lesbian bookstore that has been such a recognizable part of the landscape it's easy to forget that it's only been around since 1987.

A Different Light is part of a successful chain, owned by two

Canadian gay men, that includes stores in West Hollywood and New York. All three locations are managed by Richard Labonte, a former journalist and critic from Canada, who divides his time among the three cities. In 1979 he left Canada and his job as an entertainment writer and night editor at the *Ottawa Citizen* to follow his then-lover to Los Angeles, where they opened the first ADL in the Silverlake area (that store closed in '92, two years after the opening of the West Hollywood branch in 1990). Labonte intended to stay in the U.S. only for a year or two, but his passion for the book business took hold, and except for an annual summer visit to his farm outside Ottawa, he hasn't looked back.

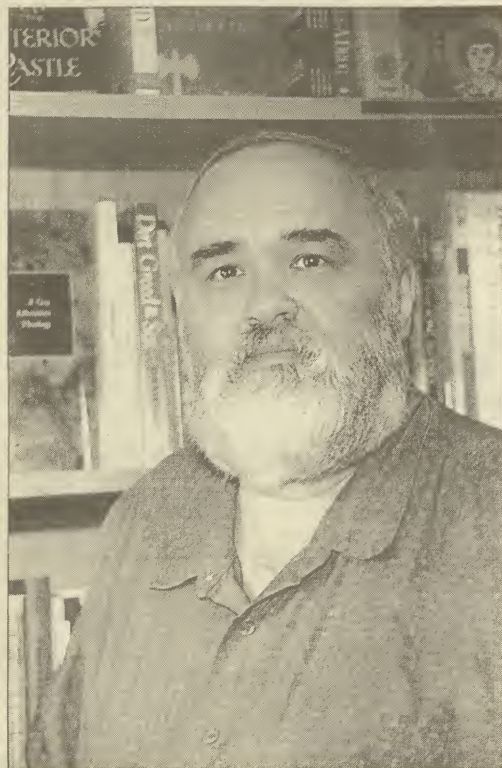
Labonte came to San Francisco to manage the San Francisco ADL store in 1988, one year after it

took over the space that had been occupied for years by Obelisk, an upscale gift shop. Before that, gay and lesbian readers had only two options for exclusively queer literature: The Walt Whitman Bookstore on Market Street and The Love That Dares on Castro. The latter was destroyed in the fire that temporarily shuttered The Elephant Walk several years ago, and Walt Whitman went out of business.

"Most major cities have only one major gay and lesbian bookstore," Labonte told me in a recent interview. "There isn't that much business to go around." Having landed a choice spot in the world's most famous gay neighborhood surely counts for much of ADL's success in San Francisco, but it has taken a great entrepreneurial effort to keep the business going.

In conversation, Labonte's enthusiasm for literature is apparent, as is his clear understanding of the ever-changing world of publishing. He acknowledges that in order to survive against the giant chains, specialty bookstores need to expand the definition of book selling, and from the start Labonte has made it his mission to find innovative ways to promote both writing and reading in the gay and lesbian community. To this end, *A Different Light* is about to sponsor its third annual queer Readers and Writers Conference in April. Meanwhile, it will continue to publish a hefty monthly newsletter, feature routine in-store author readings/book signings, and will even take a crack at publishing. The bookstore's first effort, *Sundays At Seven*, is a diverse collection of writing culled from a series of Sunday evening readings given at the LA store. *A Different Light* even has an impressive Website that includes access to the store's vast catalogue as well as interviews, reviews and articles — many of them written by store employees.

The store itself is nirvana for gay readers. Here, one finds the expected (gay classics like *The Front Runner*, *Desert Hearts*, *Loving Someone Gay*, the complete works of Rita Mae Brown



Richard Labonte

and Armistead Maupin), the surprising (shelf after shelf of non-gay work by gay writers like Clive Barker, genre fiction including science fiction, fantasy and a host of popular mysteries), and the practical (books devoted to travel, coming out, co-dependency, AIDS and religion). The bookstore also sells gay-oriented calendars, videotapes and magazines — "sidelines" in book lingo.

Labonte, 47, shares his San Francisco apartment with his partner, Asa Liles, and their dog, Percy. He spends his little free time reading, often, he confesses, with the TV on. We talked in his tiny backroom office in the Castro

Street store.

Paul Bollwinkel: Where does the name 'A Different Light' come from?

Richard Labonte: It's the title of a book by Elizabeth Lynn, a San Francisco writer. She's a lesbian, but the book had gay male characters in it. We just liked it. It had the word 'different' in it and 'light' was upbeat. I was an old friend of hers, so we asked if we could use it.

A Different Light has been in the Castro for nearly ten years. What role has it played in the neighborhood?

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I've been told by people who have lived in the Castro for a long time that A Different Light helped revitalize the area in the late '80s. While there were a lot of veteran bars and restaurants and gay-run businesses selling things made by and sold to gay people, they didn't have 'gay' written all over them like books do. Our presence here to some extent drew people back into the neighborhood.

Why has your store lasted when so many haven't?

Our motto is to have everything in print by, for, and about lesbians and gay men. We've grown fairly dramatically in the last five years. So far, people seem to be buying almost everything that's published. In 1987 there were about 800-1,000 new gay and lesbian books coming out every year. That hasn't slowed down at all. In fact, it's even higher.

We've lost a lot of writers. But in an odd way, AIDS has heightened public awareness — and that includes gay awareness — of AIDS-related writing, including AIDS fiction.

So there is money in gay publishing?

Obviously publishers are making money, both small and mainstream ones. My theory is that it's sort of a chicken and egg thing. There are more books, therefore more different kinds of books and different kinds of readers. Once you have hooked a reader, they'll come in and buy more books. I think a lot of chain stores — Barnes & Noble, Borders — are carrying gay books more obviously. While at first blush that may

seem to hurt our sales, they'll never carry all the books we have. Once people learn through reviews — whether in the *B.A.R.* or *The New York Times* — that there are gay books, they'll find us and come in looking for earlier books by authors they've discovered at another bookstore, or to see what's new.

Do non-gay people buy gay and lesbian books?

Not at all. With just a few exceptions, like the Greg Louganis book, which sold 350,000 copies, and perhaps some of Armistead Maupin's books. Some straight women buy the more literary gay male fiction. But I think we've expanded as a community enough that we're the ones who have boosted sales of a gay title from 3,000 to 10,000 copies.

had no interest in the military and what was going on. That book still sold well, but not nearly as well.

How has AIDS influenced publishing?

We've lost a lot of writers. But in an odd way AIDS has heightened public awareness — and that includes gay awareness — of AIDS-related writing, including AIDS fiction. It's the rare book these days that doesn't have some passing reference to AIDS. We've had our AIDS elegy books, *Borrowed Time* being the most famous, but there's a good new book called *Heaven's Coast* by Mark Doty that deals with his lover's dying. Fenton Johnson, a local writer, has *Geography of the Heart* coming out in a few months. I think it shows how much powerful and

great writing has come out of AIDS.

Given the ability of megastores to offer discounts, how can any specialty store stay in business?

What I hope will give us the ability to survive against the megastores is that we carry the backlist that they'll never carry. The book-selling business is going through a state of flux. The big superstores are hurting a lot of stores. They aren't yet hurting specialty stores much, but they could. If a Borders were to open in the Castro, and it were managed smartly, they'd have a lot of the titles we have here. But we have enormous customer loyalty. We have people who come in and buy books at full price over and over again without making a fuss about it. Barnes & Noble and Borders can afford to discount books because their volume is so high. Publishers pay to have space in big bookstores. We have to be really aggressive about special orders, customer service, newsletters, events, publishing, keeping older books in stock — things that are harder for a big

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What was your coming out book?

Nocturnes for the King of Naples by Edmund White

I know. Nothing can be said in his defense — the mandarin prose, the bejeweled sentiments, the taste for toilets — all true. And *Nocturnes* is the worst of it. Yet in 1978 I'd never read anything like it. It was an aesthetic awakening, equivalent to discovering the world of smut — the realm of High Homosexual. White's muted hysteria had nothing to do with sex and everything to do with art: when he wept of erotic abandonment it was only to prove how well he could write. I was from Indiana. What did I know? I've never recovered.

—Jim Coughenour

Good Times/Bad Times by James Kirkwood

James Kirkwood's *Good Times/Bad Times* is red pubic hair. The summer of 1966, 16 years old and still in high school, I went to a summer journalism conference at Indiana University and wrangled my way into spending the night in Dan's bed. Dopey Midwestern teenage queers, we didn't touch each other. As a pre-Stonewall way to come out to him, I sent Dan a copy of Kirkwood's prep school love story. It took five more years before I touched his red pubic hair for the first time. Thirty years later, we both still have our copies. Thirty years later, we still sleep together once a year.

—Dick Hoagland

The Sacred Legion by Lucien Price

The Sacred Legion, a four-volume novel, was printed privately in Massachusetts by its author, Lucien Price, one book at a time, between 1951 and 1955. It is itself but the fourth part of an eight-book gay epic collectively entitled *All Souls*.

I came upon the book at Yale in 1972. The title caught my eye; I knew the history of the Sacred Legion, a famous band of soldiers in ancient Greece composed of pairs of lovers. Like many, I thought that homosexuality had been invented by the ancient Greeks and suppressed by the early Christians, only to reappear again with Oscar Wilde. I reached for the books hoping for gay content. I was not disappointed.

The series took the form of a multigenerational gay epic, covering approximately the period of Price's life, and set mostly in New England and Greece. I now remember little of the plot; what remains is the burning impression then made on me — I was 19 — by serious literature in which gay men were not only visible but central, not merely equal, but elite.

I do not know if the other volumes were published, or even written. Gore Vidal probably knows. His 1964 bestseller, *Julian*, was dedicated to Lucien Price.

—John Kelley

The Outsider by Richard Wright

Ironically, it wasn't a "gay" novel that brought me fully out, it was a "straight" one by Richard Wright. The book was *The Outsider*, published in 1953. Dread, dream and delirium covered these pages, causing me to be aware of the dangers of staying inside myself. It was cathartic. The book made me realize that living in the subterfuge of suspicion and cover-up was ruining my life's importance: the love that I shared with a same-sex partner.

—Michael Sydnor

I have to credit a bookstore, rather than a particular book, with my coming out. I'd been having feelings about women for a long time, feelings for which I had no name. The only women's bookstore in Chicago in the early '70s was Jane Addams Books, and it was located on the 5th floor of an office building in the Loop. I must have walked past the building a dozen times before I could go inside. And when I got to the 5th floor, and opened that blank door, and saw a whole section of books labeled Lesbian, I knew I had come home, and found myself.

—Deborah Peifer

What about Randy Shilts' work?

And *The Band Played On* was a big crossover book but, oddly enough, *Conduct Unbecoming* wasn't. A lot of people wanted to read about AIDS because it is a medical mystery, or because they knew someone who was affected, or just to read some interesting journalism. But with *Conduct Unbecoming*, which I think is as important a book, most people

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Main Library

◀ front cover

April 18, San Francisco gets a new Main Library, the realization of a plan put into motion in the late '80s by the voters of San Francisco on a bond measure, the Library Foundation of San Francisco, and generous donations by private contributors. Built at a cost of \$134 million, the New Main Library will reflect the unique spirit of our city as it will house the James C. Hormel Center, the first permanent home of its kind for gay and lesbian literature, culture and history. Additional centers devoted to African-American, Chinese and Filipino-American studies expand the new library's ecumenical theme.

On the outside, the new facility doesn't look much bigger than its predecessor. But looks can be deceiving. This seven-story structure — designed by Pei Cobb Freed and Partners and Simon Martin-Vegue Winkelstein and Moris — actually has twice the space of the old facility. Inside, each floor opens onto an asymmetrical light-drenched atrium, and there are plenty of windows

to orient patrons to other buildings in the Civic Center area and beyond.

If the building itself isn't enough to hold our attention, the New Main Library captivates with two spectacular public art works. The most noticeable one is by gay Bay Area artist Nayland Blake, a green, illuminated, four-story monument bearing the names of hundreds of authors — many of them gay or lesbian — on small oval panels. The work is designed so that additional names can be added.

The other art piece, which covers walls on three of the library's six public levels, was the creation of hundreds of dedicated bibliophiles. Artists Ann Hamilton and Ann Chamberlain asked volunteers to annotate 50,000 obsolete catalogue cards with favorite passages. The final product is a mesmerizing testament to the power of the written word.

But the changes in the New Main Library are more than cosmetic. On each floor there are new cabinetry and stacks in perfect rows; audio cassettes and books-on-tape have doubled in number; English-as-a-second language tapes have tripled; seating capacity has grown to five times what it was in the old building; there are more rest rooms and individual study cubicles; stacks are now more than 30 miles long; and the book collection will grow with an additional 60,000 titles.

Vast technological changes will make the New Main one of the most up-to-date library facilities in the country. Hundreds of Internet connections will link patrons to electronic media in far-flung corners of the globe, and several hundred Public Access



The atrium of the New Main Library is covered by an enormous glass dome that allows plenty of light to fill the seven-story structure.

Catalog terminals will be available for use, each equipped to search the library's catalog of books, videos and cassettes.

Hormel started money ball rolling

Many of the amenities of the new building have been paid for by private money. Furnishings, interior finishes and equipment were financed through \$30 million raised in private funds through the Campaign for the New Main. And then there is James Hormel. The community

leader and philanthropist pledged \$500,000 of the \$1 million necessary to open the Gay and Lesbian Center. That was enough to ensure the Center would be given his name and that plenty of smaller donations would contribute to a well-funded effort. Fundraising for the Hormel Center was "an unprecedented success," says Library Commission President Steve Coulter.

"The bond measure [put to the voters in 1988] got the idea for a gay and lesbian center started," Coulter told me on a recent tour through the new facility. "The collection at the Eureka Valley branch library is small but valuable. We felt it was time to build a larger institution that would attract international collections. We formed an advisory committee and brought on publicist Sherry Thomas and Bill Walker, co-founder of the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California."

Coulter says the plan took off once the key players were secured. "Randy Shilts had expressed interest," says Coulter, "then James Hormel came on board. Word got out and the collection started growing." The committee secured a place [for the James C. Hormel Center] among the Affinity

Groups that pledged fundraising to build African-American, Filipino-American and Chinese Study Centers, among others, in the library. The original goal for the Hormel Center called for a \$1 million capital campaign and \$600,000 for collection, preservation, acquisitions and exhibits.

No one expected the campaign to catch like wildfire. To date, \$2.7 million has been raised, with \$100,000 earmarked for an endowment fund to guarantee the permanency of the collection.

"I think everyone was surprised at the public response," Hormel told me in a recent phone interview. He recalled one major fundraising event at which more than 1,300 people showed up to empty their pockets of \$1000 or more — each. "The project is enormously inspiring, and the targeted goal has been nearly doubled," says Coulter. "There is nothing in a public institution to compare to this."

Gay and Lesbian Center

The third floor of the library should be a yeasty place, what with the various Affinity Groups staking claim to their corner of "the house of the book." The

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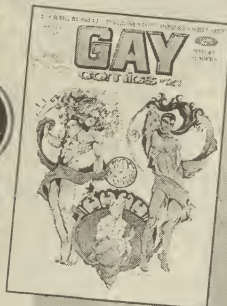
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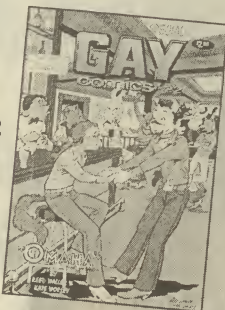
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COVER STORY



Detail from Hormel Center's ceiling mural *Into the Light*, by San Francisco artists Charley Brown and Mark Evans.

What's in a name?

The following names appear on the wall depicted in the Evans and Brown mural on the ceiling of the Gay and Lesbian Center in the New Main Library. The names appear in chronological order, reflecting their general placement on the mural.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Socrates | 21. Florence Nightingale |
| 2. Aristotle | 22. Tchaikovsky |
| 3. Sappho | 23. Marcel Proust |
| 4. Plato, Euripides, Phidias | 24. Oscar Wilde |
| 5. Alexander the Great, Ovid, Hadrian | 25. Karl Ulrichs |
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| 7. Hafiz | 27. Isadora Duncan |
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| 20. We'Wha | 40. Frida Kahlo |
| | 41. Carson McCullers |
| | 42. Lorraine Hansberry |
| | 43. Yukio Mishima |
| | 44. James Baldwin |
| | 45. Audre Lorde |
| | 46. Francis Bacon |
| | 47. Tennessee Williams |
| | 48. Rinaldo Arenas |
| | 49. Manuel Puig |
| | 50. Bayard Rustin |
| | 51. Benjamin Britten |
| | 52. Randy Shilts |

Into the light

Mural gives queers something to look up to

by Matthew Kennedy

The ceiling of the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center of the New Main Library is dominated by an enchanting circular mural painted by acclaimed San Francisco artists Mark Evans and Charley Brown. Appropriately titled "Into the Light," the mural is an allegorical representation of gay and lesbian history and culture: a staircase rises out of darkness at the peripheries of the mural and winds into a bright light at the center of the composition. People of all stripe are shown on and around the stairs, carving the names of famous gays and lesbians into its twisting structure (see names sidebar).

Measuring 22' x 11', the brown-hued canvas is covered with paste made of a marble-dusted polymer that has been sanded, sealed, leafed in aluminum, resealed and painted using Q-tips, rags, brushes and fingers. "It's purposely theatrical," notes Evans. "Since it's only 11 feet from the floor, it must be seen episodically. Bright colors, we thought, would be overwhelming."

As for its content, "This is the kind of information people need," continues Evans. "Even people who have been out and around for some time may be surprised at some of the names on the mural, but for young people just venturing out of the closet, it will be a

major hit. It's a revelation to learn that your community has a past."

The mural idea is at least three years old. "We were approached at a cocktail party by someone on the Library Foundation," says Evans. A concept for the mural emerged when several friends began posing together. After studying the possibilities, the two artists then went to work on an idea at their sunny studio at the edges of Potrero Hill and Bayview. "The maquette took about a year," says Brown, who has lived with Evans for 18 years. "You know how ideas emerge. Somebody suggested names and figures for the design. From there, it just grew."

The images on the mural are deliciously ambiguous. The light around the stairs grows increasingly bright as the figures climb higher into the realm of knowledge and self-awareness. But where does it all end? "We wanted to make it timeless," explains Evans. "There are no rainbow flags and only one very discreet triangle used in its context to the Holocaust."

Evans, 44, and Brown, 49, donated the time spent on the mural, an estimated value of \$75,000. Their time is indeed precious — they are sought-after artists, after all, whose work adorns the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, EuroDisney in France, and the United States embassies in Cyprus and Egypt. Locally, their work can be seen in the

Monadnock Building, the Stanford Court Hotel and at Levi Strauss headquarters. Recently, they won the Classical America Award for Best Muralists in America.

"This project is altogether different," says Evans. "Here is a chance to give to the community and make a lasting impression. I hope people like the ceiling, but we didn't do it to make everyone happy. It comes from the heart." ▼

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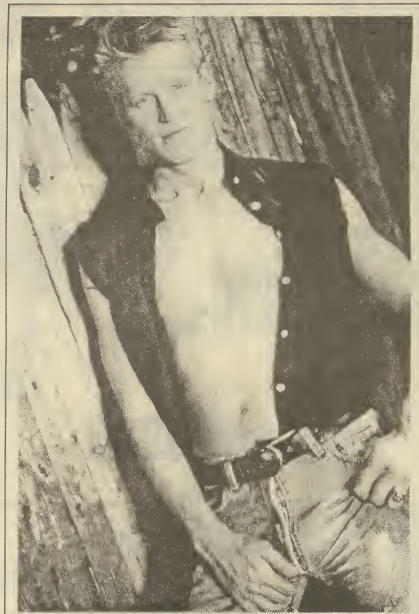
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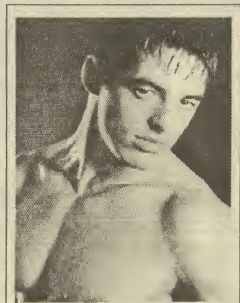
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Theatre Rhino

◀ Arts cover

a hit, the founders located a permanent space for Rhino in the Goodman Building on Geary between Van Ness and Franklin, a location that was, by all accounts, positively seething with the creativity, sexuality and just plain heat that epitomized the late '70s.

Then came Reagan and the '80s. San Francisco's thriving independent theater scene was nearly washed away by a tidal wave of spending cuts and economic crises. Still, in 1982, Estes was able to rally his forces and move Rhino to its present home on 16th Street. And then came AIDS. When Artistic Director Estes died in 1984, he left a huge gap in the organization, a space that had once been filled with his charm, charisma and enthusiasm. With the double wallop of Reagan and

AIDS, conventional wisdom would have a fragile gay-centered theater buckling under. But such was not the case. Faced with a shaky future on the brightest of days, Rhino spent the next decade working through its hardest transition to date.

Holsclaw and Prandini

Associate Artistic Director Doug Holsclaw came to Rhino in 1984 as a writer and performer in *The AIDS Show*. He remembers the dark period that followed Estes' death. "A lot of organizations don't survive when their inspirational leader leaves," Holsclaw says. "The Supremes didn't. But even though it was a tumultuous, emotional time after Allan died, Rhino survived the transition."

Rhino's Artistic Director Adele Prandini, who also arrived at Rhino as a writer, production manager and sometime per-

former with *The AIDS Show*, recalls the time as one of the roughest she's been through. "People were dying everywhere, and I didn't know how to deal with that and do the work I needed to do," she says. "I just didn't know how to deal with the level of sickness that was around us. We had no model. We've lived with AIDS for a long time now, and we've learned to deal with this crisis, but back in '84 it was different. It was an incredible challenge to try and do your job and deal with so much sickness."

One of the keys to Rhino's survival during this rocky period was the integration of women into the scope of a theater that had heretofore been focused almost exclusively on gay men. Prandini, who has been artistic director for five years, attributes this success to Kris Gannon, a current member of Rhino's 10-member board of directors, who served as artistic director following Estes' death.

"Doug and I arrived here around the same time to work on *The AIDS Show*," Prandini says, "and we epitomized the split between the gay and lesbian communities. We were both young and went through the struggle of two groups trying to learn about each other and how to work with each other. I can say that this experience changed my life. I have learned so much here over the years professionally and personally about collaborating, about growing up."

"You know all those jokes regarding lesbians and our seriousness and our political this and that? Well, enough of that was true of me to make things difficult. But Rhino was a place where I was allowed to struggle through that stuff, grow, get over it, learn to be different and manage to discover how to work respectfully. I'm so grateful for that. I hope we're able to continue providing that experience to people who work here." Prandini pauses and surveys the empty theater in which she sits. "I've never told anybody that. I feel a little vulnerable around it, but it's really true."

Over the years, Theatre Rhinoceros has developed a reputation as a breeding ground for up-and-coming talent in the gay and lesbian theatrical community. Many members of what eventually became the Z Collective first connected at Rhino. Performers like Suzy Berger, Kate Bornstein and Justin Bond and playwrights like Chay Yew (*Porcelain*) and Joe Pintauro (*Wild Blue*) received their first significant Bay Area notice at Rhino. In part to survive, and in part to help further develop new talent, Rhino has also become a co-producer of shows, meaning they give artists space to work, share the expenses of the show and split the box-office take. Writer/director Ronnie Larsen's first hit, *Scenes From My Love Life*, was a Rhino co-production that began life in their intimate basement studio theater. John Fisher's *The Joy of Gay Sex* also began life in Rhino's basement.

"People like to come to a place where they can do their work, get some visibility and not have to start from scratch," Holsclaw says. "Even though we always have to keep an eye on the bottom line, as a non-profit we do have a bumper so that everything we do does not have to be commercially viable."

More than a flesh emporium

Credibility is something that every theater company struggles to maintain, and over the years, Rhino has developed a reputation for what Holsclaw terms "under-



Adele Prandini

wear shows," that is, nudity-filled fests of hyper sexuality.

Prandini says she feels this reputation is undeserved. "Rhino has not gotten credit over the years for the serious work it has produced that other theaters would be hesitant to go near," she insists. "Something like *Walking the Dead* (the current main stage production about a female-to-male sex change operation) would simply not be done commercially. Rhino does its share of serious work, but we're still viewed as 'oh, let's take our shirts off, run around and celebrate our sexuality.' That's an unbalanced look, though I don't deny we do those shows as well."

Holsclaw tackles the reputation issue with a statistic: between 1989's *Soul Survivor* and 1995's *You & You & You*, there was not a single nude man on the Rhino main stage. That's nearly six nudity-free years.

"Gay and lesbian artists have a right to access work that celebrates all the various aspects of what it means to be lesbian and gay," Prandini says. "That runs the full gamut of experience, and we're not going to back away from the challenge that presents. We're not going to back away from shows that are acutely sexual because it may jeopardize our National Endowment for the Arts funding. We won't bow to that pressure because challenging art has a role in our culture. We need balance in our lives, and that balance is rooted in diversity, diversity of content. We will continue to do plays that are about the larger, interesting, fascinating questions and challenges."

The people who face those questions and challenges at Rhino are, as anyone might guess, a diverse group. There are the fiercely loyal subscribers who have been attending shows since the beginning; there are the theater aficionados who also subscribe to theaters such as Berkeley Repertory Theater or the American Conservatory Theater; and there are those who believe in Rhino as a gay and lesbian community organization.

Though their subscriber base is as strong as it has ever been, finances always pose a threat to a small, community-based theater. Maintaining a facility with two stages that are continually in use year-round is a tremendous challenge. The staff of six boasts only one full-time position. Prandini and Holsclaw are both 80 percent positions and the other three positions are half-time.

"When you're trying to run an organization without any money, you spend four hours trying to get a machine that doesn't function to work," Prandini says. "You're scraping together, borrowing this and that. It's a high-stress situation."

Holsclaw agrees and adds: "It's kind of like a Russian harvest sometimes. But at least we're be-

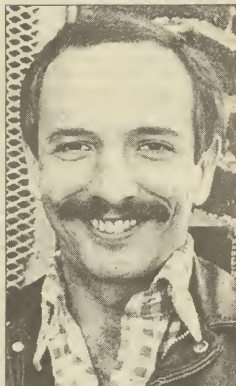
yond hiding postage stamps."

Still, Holsclaw maintains, the challenges only make the success more sweet. "When you're struggling financially," he says, "and you pop up a show you're proud of, there's great satisfaction in being able to do that amid all these other challenges."

Big goals for the future

While Prandini and Holsclaw focus on the remainder of this year's season (the gender-identity rock 'n' roll musical fantasy *Hillbillies on the Moon* will conclude the season), they will also have some long-term goals to consider. Their first goal is to beef up their administrative staff to ensure organizational health. The second goal is to find a new facility — more seats, bigger budgets — in a safer location. There's also next year's season to plan, and the development of more community programs like their current play-writing workshop, which Holsclaw, the author of *Life of the Party* and co-author of Rhino's hit from last season, *Beyond Bagdad*, oversees.

The '90s are a hard time for any arts organization, but Prandini says she remains the eternal optimist. "This whole far right thing is going to force people to make some decisions about whether or not we're going to go down this path of hate," she says. "We have pulled support away from arts, schools and social services for so long now that we're suffering on the streets. Now people will have to choose: do we want culture in our lives? Do we



Rhino founder Allan Estes

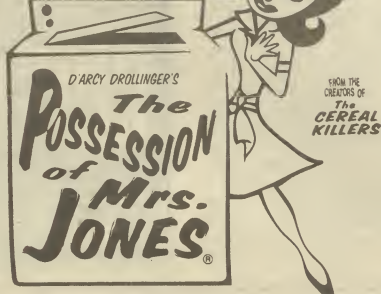
want something that will raise the issues of integrity, truth and censorship and love and equality and justice? I think it will all turn around because there's a need in all of us for a place to do that kind of exploration."

In the face of political and economic obstacles, Holsclaw and Prandini seem content to thrive in the hub of activity that is Theatre Rhinoceros. On any given night, there may be actors rehearsing in Room Nine, a play-writing workshop going on in the studio while a director tries to hold auditions, people in the hallways having a cigarette while going over some notes, actors running lines in the stairwell, set builders hard at work on the main stage, and office workers trying to get the donated printer to print. It's a sign of health when a building has a buzz, and in the wilds of Africa, you know you won't feel the business end of its horn when you hear a rhino hum. ▼

Theatre Rhino's current production, *Walking the Dead*, has been extended through April 13. Call 861-5079 for tickets and information.

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SF Jacks celebrates thirteen years Jackie Oh!

by Roberto Friedman

The doors to the SF Jacks party stay open for only an hour, and Karr told me to get there before 8:10 to avoid the last-minute rush. When I arrive at 7:45, men are already spilling in, stripping off, and taking up positions on the railing, ready for the juicy jack-off to come. The Jacks, a strictly-I/O sex club known for its flair and invention, are celebrating their thirteenth anniversary this month, but amazingly this is my first visit.

At the mandatory clothes check, Karr, one of the Jacks' 'floundering fathers,' hands me a basket for my threads. I join the naked milling about.

It's an early crowd. "There's a whole bunch of guys who are here right at 7:30, they squirt and they're gone," Karr had warned. "Well, we meet on Monday nights, it's a school night," added Dr. Woof, another Jacks founder.

Most of the men seem to know each other, but the crowd is friendly to newcomers: we seem to qualify as 'fresh meat.' A hot daddy-type with shaved head and pierced nips is eager to help me get off. Horniness is a currency that's passed from Jack to Jack. I play with a smooth Asian guy, and finally spurt while held from behind by a blonde man. How great to rest my head on a stranger's strong shoulder in the blissful stu-

pidity after cumming:

But the spirit of the event is more than 'get off and get lost.' When you're butt-naked, it's hard to cop a 'tude. There's lots of carresses and playful slaps on the butt, a sexual camaraderie among men of all sizes, shapes, colors and ages. "I happen to like pretty people. They're good visuals," allows Karr. "But I've learned to be more pleased by the intense sexuality that regular people display, who get prettier the closer they get to orgasm."

If Blow Buddies, Eros, the Playground and others are the Disney World, Knott's Berry Farm, etc. of the sex clubs, then the Jacks are the Elks Club. They are certainly the only sex club which quotes the Talmud in their newsletter: "If you would understand the invisible, look carefully at the visible." They are determinedly different from the usual sex joints: The lights are left on, so voyeurs and exhibitionists don't have to strain to see and be seen. There's no porno, "cause we're the show." And the Jacks eschew that disco beat, the usual soundtrack to sex clubs. The night I attended, the music segued from ambient to Celtic to World Beat. "We try to find music that's psychologically warm, and shy away from anything with lyrics, so people won't start listening to words."

Global repercussions

Considering that masturba-



Karr, center, and other "floundering fathers."

tion is probably the most common sexual event on Mother Earth, it's surprising there aren't more enthusiast clubs like the Jacks. The group's first meeting in March, 1983, announced by a small classified ad in the B.A.R., was held at 544 Natoma, Peter Hartman's legendary theatre/art space. The theatrical lighting and ambiance suited the Jacks, whose play rewards flamboyance and creativity: "We masturbated in the midst of art!" enthuses Karr. In time, the club moved to the Cauldron and other SoMa warehouse spaces and finally settled at the 1808 Club. By now there are Jacks groups and events all over

the world. Dr. Woof helped organize PIGJO, Pan-International Global J/O, a worldwide simultaneous jack-off (motto: "Wank for peace") that claims responsibility for the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union. "It took a lot of masturbation," concedes Woof.

From the start, the SF Jacks' emphasis has been on group fun, not pairing off. "Putting naked men together in a small space really focuses the action," says Karr. Toward that end, they have a long history of specialty "theme nights," such as "We Have a (Wet) Dream" night (for MLK, Jr.'s birthday), Sausage Night (for

Columbus Day), Esperanto Bondage Night, Appliance Night, and Caravaggio's Rosh Hashanah (with mariachi accompaniment). *Esperanto Bondage Night?* "We like Esperanto because it's an international language, like masturbation!" Of course.

"The one theme night we didn't have, we restrained ourselves, was a Regina Resnick [opera diva from '40s to '60s] look-alike night," Karr says with a modicum of regret.

I thumb through ten years of *Penis Mighties*, the Jacks' yearbooks full of photos of specialty nights, and remember men I

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Michael Callen

◀ page 69

(GRID), an early term for the cluster of diseases that would later be christened "AIDS," in June 1982. Since Callen's CD4 level was first tested in 1981, his count had not risen above 200. Before his death on December 27, 1993, he had battled virtually every opportunistic infection known to be associated with AIDS, including cryptosporidiosis and Pneumocystis pneumonia. He had had Kaposi's sarcoma for more than six years.

In addition to his other accomplishments, Callen had written and spoken extensively about long-term AIDS survivorship since the mid-1980s. His 1990 book, *Surviving AIDS*, with its interviews of long-term survivors, joined two volumes of *Surviving and Thriving With AIDS: Collected Wisdom*, a 1988 work, as the first compendiums of information by, for, and about people living long-term with AIDS. He was one of the inventors of the concept of safe sex.

But Callen had an artistic side as well — more than a side, in fact; it was virtually another personality. A "closeted child soprano prodigy," Callen sang, recorded, and toured extensively with the a cappella group The Flirtations from 1988 until his "final" concert at the March on Washington in 1993. He recorded a solo album, *Purple Heart*, released in 1988, that includes anthems like "Living in Wartime," vocal burlesques on safe sex ("How to Have Sex in an Epidemic"), haunting ballads on

the subject of failed father-son love ("Nobody's Fool"), and even a campy rendition of "Where the Boys Are." His last effort, *Legacy*, is a multi-CD project that Callen's partner, Richard Dworkin, has been working to complete for nearly two years.

It was to his commitments as an activist and thinker, however (he would have rejected the title "intellectual"), that Callen devoted most of his adult life. In November 1982, Callen, Richard Berkowitz, and Dworkin published "We Know Who We Are: Two Gay Men Declare War on Promiscuity" in the *New York Native*. It fell like a bomb on the gay male community. Six months later, Callen touched off another hurricane when he, Berkowitz, Dr. Joseph Sonnabend (Callen's doctor and another well-known AIDS heretic), and Dworkin self-published *How to Have Sex in an Epidemic: One Approach*, the first comprehensive attempt to define what would later be called "safer sex." For the former, Callen was called "sex-negative" and "homophobic"; for the latter, he was accused of trying to kill people by promoting promiscuity.

During the debate about bathhouse closure in New York in 1983-1984, Callen formed "The Committee for Sexual Responsibility," a group whose purpose was to propose a list of responsibilities for bathhouse owners, including cooperation with community-based AIDS education efforts, providing safe-sex brochures to patrons, and so forth.

At the time, Callen was also a member of then-Governor Mario Cuomo's New York State AIDS



"Activists who risk being pioneers should brace themselves for the possibility that history might very well write that they had the opposite view."

Advisory Council, whom Cuomo asked to make recommendations on bathhouse closure. Although Callen vehemently pressed for public discussion of the issue — and for a community consensus — he ran afoul of the bitter partisanship in gay politics that marked the debate then and which typifies it now. The Advisory Council ultimately voted to close bathhouses. Callen was one of the few members to vote against that majority position.

Today, some 12 years later, it may be difficult to recall, in its accurate historical context, the nature of the controversy that was generated by the proposal that gay bathhouses be closed. Despite the false history of *And the Band Played On*, there was a period of more than a year during which there was no scientific consensus (and thus, little reliable public information) on the question of the sexual transmissibility of AIDS. In March 1984, the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights issued a statement saying that there was "no clear medical evidence to link bathhouse attendance with AIDS,"

and, though AAPHR took no position on bathhouse closing, the local Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights opposed it. Even those who fiercely defended the position that AIDS was sexually transmitted and that the baths should be closed had virtually no advice — other than abstinence — about how to avoid infection. It would be another few months before the "discovery" of HIV would be announced and an antibody test made available.

It was into this kind of politically and socially-defining moment that Callen began his career as an AIDS activist. But virtually no one escaped from that time unscathed. Callen's work then — and almost everything he did afterwards — inspired fierce loyalties and equally fierce grudges. His character was demonstrated in part by the caliber of his enemies. In cities like San Francisco, in fact, what Callen liked to call his "deconstructors" often seemed to outnumber his supporters. It was San Francisco that gave birth to the rumor that Callen didn't "really" have AIDS, an irony that Callen met with both frustration and characteristic humor. After he was

diagnosed with KS, for example, he was fond of yanking up his pants leg at public forums to show his lesions and asking, "Now do you believe I have AIDS?"

Still, as late as two months before Callen's death, a spokesperson for San Francisco's Project Inform would say that Callen was "too controversial. Besides, he's whiny. He gives people the wrong idea of what people with AIDS are like."

Such sentiments reflect a side of Callen for which he continues to be insufficiently credited: Callen was a proud and effective AIDS dissident. He vehemently opposed the use of AZT from virtually the moment of its availability and, together with Joseph Sonnabend, repeatedly questioned the "HIV equals AIDS" orthodoxy, insisting instead that equal attention be paid to "lifestyle" factors.

Perhaps, in fact, the most significant distinction to be made between Callen and many members of the generation of AIDS activists who were and are his peers is that Callen deeply believed in — and even thrived on — open debate and the exchange of opposing ideas. He saw no dishonor in the raising of even painful questions; he believed that every certainty should be dragged out of mothballs periodically and reexamined. Callen was, in fact, what *Spin* magazine AIDS journalist Celia Farber once called the "on the other hand" activist: one of the few she knew who was willing to say he wasn't sure, didn't know, or was confounded by conflicting information.

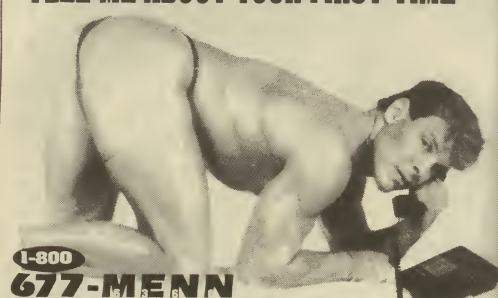
Callen meticulously documented, as he put it, "every step along the way" in his political activism, his singing career, and his experience with AIDS. He was an obsessive researcher and fact-gatherer, and he delighted in bringing new information, or a second (or fourth) opinion to bear on whatever issue he was grappling with at the moment. For Callen, it wasn't a question of spin; it was the operation of an active, permeable intelligence. Here, in one of his last interviews, Callen reflects on what he called his role as a long-term survivor "spokesmodel" and on his involvement in nearly 14 years of AIDS activism.

I would advise any activist taking on any issue who wants to risk being a pioneer to brace themselves for the possibility that history might very well write that they held the opposite view. *And the Band Played On* is a pretty perfect example of how history can be rewritten while people are still alive. Usually people wait a tasteful time until the principles are dead, then you can say whatever you want. But in this case, history gets rewritten with a "fuck you" before your very eyes. It's just unbelievable.

Basically, if you step up to bat and you say anything publicly, you have to make peace with the fact that it's going to get garbled, like [a game of] "Telephone" on acid. Suddenly you're going to hear words or positions attributed to you that are so opposite and extraordinary or contradictory that it's just breathtaking. I learned that early on. You give birth to concepts, and then it's, "Look what they've done to my song, Ma." They have a life of their own, and you no longer own them.

When I wrote "In My Time of Dying" [which appeared in the August 30, 1992 issue of the now-defunct *QWJ*], I got a series of absolutely hateful letters, some from

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INTERVIEW

Richard Labonte

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store to do. Capitalism is an okay system, but not a fair system. When there is volume-buying and unfair trade practices with publishers, it's a problem. I'm not sanguine about our future just because we are a specialty store.

unusual in that almost 80 percent are backlist books. The average in most bookstores is that new books count for 50 percent of sales. In 1979 we had about 900 titles on the shelves. Now there are more than 14,000.

There seems to be more genre fiction available.

In 1983, I created a mystery and

Our sales are unusual in that almost 80 percent are backlist books. The average in most bookstores is that new books count for 50 percent of sales.

What sells at A Different Light?

Classics like all the old Maupin, Rechy, Gore Vidal, early coming out books like *Now That You Know* and *Positively Gay* — all those we call backlist books, and we'll always have them in stock. Our two consistent bestsellers are *Moby Dick* and *Oh Pioneer!* I think men are interested in Melville because of the unexpressed homoerotic desire, but it's much stronger in *Billy Budd*. Willa Cather sells because people discover that she was a lesbian and become curious. Our sales are

sci-fi section. Of course there weren't as many titles in it as there are now. There's no reason for lesbians and gay men not to buy escapist reading or entertainment reading in the same proportion everyone else does. They've become two of our more popular sections. A third genre is romance fiction, but we haven't yet had to pull that out of our general fiction section. Another category is coming-out fiction. Those are the four main genres. The only section that sells higher is the travel section.

What book do you remember most



So many books, so little time: when Richard Labonte isn't reading books he's watching cows on a collectively-owned farm in Canada.

from your coming out days?

I read *City of Night* when it first came out in the early '60's, when I was 13 — a pretty graphic book, but it certainly helped me along. Ever since then John Rechy has been one of my favorite writers.

Who else do you read?

I read a sampling of almost everything that comes in, sometimes in galleys. I'll read everything by Michael Nava, Katherine Forrest and Sandra Scoppetone. For non-fiction, everything by Martin Duberman and Eric Marcus.

You do a lot to serve the gay community besides just selling books.

From the very beginning we've been committed to having as many community events as possible. So we'll grab touring authors when they come through San Francisco. We also have an upstairs room we donate for writing workshops. Dorothy Allison (*Bastard Out of Carolina*) taught a class there a few years ago. The important thing we can do for the community of writers and readers is to thank them for supporting us with what they write and buy, and it gives the readers a chance to meet the writers.

And you've begun publishing your own books.

The bookstore is a geographical location, but it's also a state of mind. So I've become determined over the last few years to take the bookstores out of the bookstore. Part is by publishing books. What I hope to do starting next year is to set up a publishing program where we will publish a gay novel, a lesbian novel and some kind of collection — plays or essays or an anthology on a certain topic — each year.

So what do you do when you're not taking care of the Different Light chain?

We actually prefer to think of ourselves as a bracelet. It's a kinder word. I read. In college I was involved in co-operative living and a bunch of us bought a farm which we still own. I go back every year — this is the 20th — to sit in my living room on the farm and look at the cows. It's one way I relax. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Reader & Writers III

Tickets are now on sale for A Different Light Bookstore's third annual Readers & Writers Conference, which will bring together over one hundred local and national queer writers, April 19-21. Expected guests include: Jewelle Gomez, James Earl Hardy, Jacqueline Woodson, Fenton Johnson, Eric Rofes, Chay Yew, Shyam Selvadurai and others.

Readings during the conference will highlight the work of at least 50 local writers, including Justin Chin, Klea Forte-Escamilla, Ricardo Bracho, Bridghe Mullins, Chea Villanueva, Roberto Friedman, Raul Thomas and Robert Gluck. A reading in Spanish will be offered by members of Te toca la tinta. Contributors from two new anthologies — *Sundays at Seven* (reviewed in this issue) and *Queer View Mirror* — will also be on hand at special kick-off events.

The conference takes place at the Women's Building, 3543 18th St. For information, call 431-0891. ▼

Michael Callen

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PWAs, some from social workers, saying, "You are now a symbol and you ought to crawl off and die alone. You have no right to write about your death publicly because you take hope away from people and no one has that right."

Well, I realized that what some people had been thinking I was saying... was [that] "Not everyone with AIDS will die of AIDS..." But what my message really has been is that no one needs to die on cue. No one needs to swallow these 18-month projections and die because of them. But I clarified in an article that I wrote after the extraordinary response I got to "In My Time of Dying," that I was actually lucky to have a chance to understand how widely misunderstood I was in some quarters and to state for the record [what my message] is.

I actually believe that everyone with full-blown AIDS will likely die of it, because I see absolutely no reason to believe that anybody currently working on AIDS has any kind of track record to justify any hope at all. People I know have attacked me, saying that's

such a hopeless thing to say. I cannot, however, deny the evidence. I mean, I don't deny the possibility of extraordinary survival, but I've never seen it. I am now alone, out on my limb, I don't know anybody who has had AIDS longer than me. Apparently they exist, according to the government, but I don't know them....

I decided to be public in my journey a long time ago and saw no reason, despite the body blows I took, to regret that decision. I guess I still feel that way. Some day, five or six people might really be interested to know what this was like, and I like to think that my collected writings would be a reasonably good place to begin for what it was like, at least for one mad queen.

That isn't the same thing as saying I don't have regrets or that I haven't learned from my mistakes or that there aren't things I would do differently. But I am going to be dying with a tremendously satisfied sense that I did the best I could with the information available to me at absolutely every step along the way. Obviously my detractors, when they read this, will think that I invented lying and mendacity. So let history judge — if it cares to. ▼

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Home grown

'Sundays at Seven' makes gay literary history

by Garland Richard Kyle

I've spent more years than I care to remember living up and down the California coast. Whether it has been in the teeming Third World-like metropolis of Los Angeles or the more urbane, if staid, San Francisco, both cities have nourished some of the most gifted voices in gay writing today.

Los Angeles and San Francisco have been well represented by the number of talented gay writers each has produced. Despite the popular perception of East Coast literary denizens, gay literature has flourished within their respective borders and has been responsible, at least in part, for a renaissance of gay writing and publishing.

Sundays at Seven: Choice Words from A Different Light's Gay Writing Series is an important contribution to the rediscovery of gay literary history in Los Angeles. Although an anthology, it should not be confused with the dozens of collections that have overwhelmed readers with their often mediocre content. *Sundays at Seven* is an eclectic, if inconsistent, collection of



Contributing author, the late Steven Corbin.

nonfiction, performance pieces, poetry, and fiction that often falls prey to the problems inherent in other anthologies — uneven editorial stewardship. But the work needs to be read as a collection from a reading series where authors are experimenting with their voices and craft. While some works seem undeveloped and lacking in direction and focus, others are beautifully crafted, amusing, wonderfully original, and often, most poignant.

Begun in 1979, when A Different Light opened the first

gay and lesbian bookstore in Silverlake, the Gay Writers Series was first organized by the late James Carroll Pickett. Under his direction, the series produced some 40 nights of readings by more than 100 Los Angeles writers. In 1992, the Silverlake store closed and moved to West Hollywood, where the reading series continued under the guidance of Rondo Mieczkowski.

"As far as I know," noted Richard Labonte, longtime manager of A Different Light, "they are the longest-running series supported by any gay/lesbian bookstore."

The most impressive work in *Sundays at Seven* is the prose. Noteworthy are Bernard Cooper's charming essay about growing up in LA, "101 Ways to Cook Hamburger"; Gavin Geoffrey Dillard's clever, if indulgent, "Shame on Me"; Craig Lee's amusing tribute to his mother's sex life, "Mother's Prey"; and Michael Nava's insightful piece on the literary significance of the gay mystery.

In addition to the nonfiction, there are several works of fiction worth mentioning: Rob Goldstein's "Two Stories"; Mark Halle's endearing "Miz Lou Has A Reason to Smile"; Mattias Viegner's sexy "Jim, Gym, Easter Break"; and David Kalmansohn's portrait of death and loss, "Bruises."

One of the most original works in *Sundays at Seven* is Tim Miller's performance piece "Civil Disobedience Weekend," a hilarious account of what happens when a "very cute" bunch of ACT UP demonstrators gets "locked in a holding tank for the weekend with nothing to do..."

The poetry in this collection is disappointing. Many pieces seem to be included only because of the notoriety of the authors. The overwrought and sexually tiresome "Kiss" by Malcolm Boyd and "Love Poems for Robert Mitchum" by Robert Peters seem dated. Paul Monette's polemic "Stephen at the FDA" is merely a meandering rant. The delightfully-titled poem, "I Can't Stop

Buying Clothes," is thematically amusing but ultimately fails as a poem. Most of the poems lack the lyrical language and imagery needed to sustain themselves.

Probably the most remarkable achievement of *Sundays at Seven* is the tireless dedication of A Different Light in providing

writers with the opportunity to showcase their work. The collection is as much a tribute to the authors as it is to a small independent bookstore that has long supported gay and lesbian literature and has provided one of the few hospitable environments in which it has flourished. ▼

Jackie Oh!

◀ page 79

know who were really into this group. Could that butt on Belt Night have been Mica's? Could that masked man on Bag Night have been Sky Forest? As part of their 13th anniversary celebrations this month, the Jacks will release a new issue, as well as a best-of collection from previous *Penis Mighties*. Also, the *Diaries of Dr. Jizzwell*, which began as an account of an early Jacks party and became a chronicle of the '80s, a sort of *Plague Journal with I/O*, will be brought out by Alternate Publishing (Manifest Rituals).

There will be three Jacks birthday parties this month, on the 8th, the 15th, and the 22nd. Think of them like Bar Mitzvahs: Karr will be the Rabbi, manhood will be confirmed, and there'll be reading from

the scrolls, special guests, fetishwear and costumes encouraged — "as long as we can see the thing itself." They promise birthday cakes in the shape of penises. The third of these 'meatings' will be Photo Night, with official photographer Jim James snapping away in a specified space, and the opportunity for you to bring your own camera.

Come join these "old hands at social masturbation," jerk off and come clean. Then you, too, will be able to say, in the immortal words of Karr, "I'm my own cheap thrill!" ▼

SF JACKS meet the 2nd Monday of every month at 1808 Market. 13th birthday parties are April 8, 15, 22. Doors open 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. only. Occupancy laws will be respected, so come early. Info: 431-1931.

Main Library

◀ page 76

African-American Center, Filipino-American Center, Chinese Center and the Center for Humanities are all within easy strolling distance of each other. Critics may scream "Balkanization," but the center was designed with the purpose of tearing down walls, not building them. Designers hope that the close proximity of the centers to one another will compel visitors to explore people and cultures they might otherwise have overlooked.

The Gay and Lesbian Center, very much a part of this mix, lives on the Southwest corner of the third floor. Like the other centers planned for the building, it is an intimate, circular room measuring 34 feet in diameter with seating for 15 patrons at a time. The room contains many non-circulating reference books on enclosed shelves. The Center is more ceremonial than practical; it houses only the highlights and most valuable entries of the library's extensive gay and lesbian holdings. "The Gay and Lesbian Center is really the whole library," Center Director Jim Van Buskirk clarified. "The Center's collection will be integrated throughout the library, along with all the other collections."

The Center has its own librarian, and over 10,000 titles culled from magazines and newspapers worldwide. Preservation of books, magazines, manuscripts and films are key priorities of the Center. Highlights of the collection include: Barbara Grier and Donna McBride's books, periodicals and personal papers from Naiad Press, the largest lesbian publishing company in the world; the archives of filmmakers Rob Epstein (*The Times of Harvey Milk*, *Common Threads* and *The Celluloid Closet*) and Peter Adair (*Word is Out*); the personal papers of African-American poet and ac-

tivist Pat Parker (*Movement in Black*, *Child of Myself* and *Pit Stop*); and the memorabilia of Harvey Milk and journalist Randy Shilts (*And the Band Played On* and *Conduct Unbecoming*).

Reading our way into coming out

The foremost mission of Center organizers is the creation of an internationally recognized place of gay and lesbian scholarship. "The gay and lesbian movement needs intellectual content," says Coulter. "The right-wing GOP formed think tanks. While I may be repulsed at their message, they have been very effective at moving their agenda forward. How do we develop our agenda and move it forward? How can we come together with other libraries around the world? This is a non-threatening way to tell our story and send a strong message of the relevance of gay and lesbian research and history. The benefits are also immeasurable to young people uncertain of their sexuality. As donor William D. Glenn said, 'We read our way into coming out.'"

Most homosexuals will agree that the opening of the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center is a milestone of inestimable proportions. How many of us remember going to the nearest public library as adolescents to furtively search for information on our secret sexual desires? How many of us found nothing but references to deviance, mental illness and pathology? In San Francisco, thanks to a great new library, James Hormel, and the vision of generous donors, those desperate and isolating years need never happen again. ▼

Thursday, April 18 marks the official opening of the New Main Library. Larkin Street will be closed from Hayes to McAllister Streets from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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MEDIA

Queers on...

Arts cover

time — and many of the best and brightest in our community died. The momentum of the late '60s and early '70s evaporated within a few years; I know because I saw it happen. Unfortunately, in the arena of gay activism, this momentum was often replaced by whining and self-righteousness — behavior that is no more successful for gay activists than it is for right-wing fundamentalists. Amid this sea change of political and social consciousness, the gay

Some of them I know personally, and some I know only through their work. It is this work, and the work of the editors, that has the most impact on the evolving role of the entertainment journalist in the local gay press. Ironically, journalists in the mainstream press have taken on much the same role vis a vis gay performers that gay journalists assumed in the '80s. I don't wish to denigrate the work of my colleagues in the dailies, but the gay critics there usually gloss over the inadequacies of work produced by and/or for gay people. More often than not, the unmistakable air of po-

editorial shift has given rise to some dissension among the ranks of publicists, promoters, and gay artists who previously took the unflagging support of the gay press for granted. The tendency of queer journalists to push past secular politeness and really tell it like it is has brought a litany of complaints. The typical allegations run along the lines of "the left eating its own." When gay people insist on artistic integrity and refuse to settle for second best, it seems there is always someone standing around inquiring with sarcastic insincerity, "What do they want, any-

When gay people insist on artistic integrity and refuse to settle for second best, it seems there is always someone standing around inquiring with sarcastic insincerity, "What do they want, anyway?"

press emerged. Newspapers and magazines came and went, with varying success, and as the collective profile of homosexuals rose in society, the role of the gay press changed, and so did the job of the journalist.

A decade ago, when I first began laboring in the fields of the alternative press, I was thrilled to be writing about entertainment — with a B.A. in theatre and an M.A. in film, there wasn't anything else I was qualified to write about. I was also thrilled that the alternative press wasn't as constipated as the major dailies. Journalists in the alternative press still have greater leeway in their choice of subject matter, and they also get to use every word in the richly nuanced English language. But for most of the '80s, there was a dearth of material of specific interest to the lesbian and gay audience. As with the '70s, gay people waited patiently until some gay writer, performer, or filmmaker would have a breakthrough, like Mart Crowley's *Boys in the Band*. In the long dry spells between those *causes celebres*, the gay journalist had to analyze the work of straight people from a gay perspective or focus on the activities of artists and entertainers within the gay community. The first option was not always a joy (I could interview Phyllis Diller, but not Barry Diller) and the second option often resulted in a rather incestuous ghettoized focus which did not lead the community, or the gay publication, forward.

Then something happened — and it happened within the last few years. Suddenly, queers were everywhere. Lesbian and gay characters started appearing in television sitcoms, in Hollywood films, and on daily television talk shows. They were doing stand-up, making records, and headlining in concert appearances all over America — the land of the free and the home of the brave was actually beginning to live up to its promise. The religious right went absolutely nuts. When every kid in America can come home from school and turn on the television and see a gay or lesbian character, you know things have changed. Those mainstream queer images may be sterile, two-dimensional and sexless, but they're visible. The mainstream press has to comment on them, and now that this is happening daily, the role of the journalist in the alternative press is transforming.

Locally, the major dailies now have several full-time gay journalists who cover entertainment.

litical correctness rises from the page, with some reviewers so wildly out-of-sync with reality that I sometimes wonder if my peers have taken leave of their senses. One writer in particular is such an incorrigible queer cheerleader that no one I know will even read his work anymore. By editorial assignment, or by request, most coverage of gay/lesbian performance goes to these writers. But occasionally, the dailies will assign a straight writer to cover a gay-specific performer or film. The outcome of these journalistic forays is usually too tragic for words.

The gay journalists at least "get it" on some level; the straight journalists are so out of touch with the gay experience that they end up saying nothing whatsoever — or they trash something for idiosyncratic reasons that have no relevance to an artist working through the gay experience. In defense of the queer journalists on the dailies, I must admit that if I were in their position, I might have my own crisis of consciousness. The dailies have a very large, very heterosexual readership. The gay journalist working in this environment has the ability to promote the gay/lesbian artist in a positive way in homes where this kind of promotion might do some sociological good. But if the work will not stand on its own without puffery, just how much good is being accomplished? What does this do for the credibility of the journalist? And where does this leave the lesbian/gay reader who doesn't want disemboweled criticism or uninformed inanity?

The greatest opportunity for honest and objective coverage of gay artists now belongs to the local gay press. With the major dailies in San Francisco relieving gay journalists from the responsibility of promoting and protecting queer artists above all others, the role of the gay press has changed. At this point in our collective history, if gay newspapers went to press every time there was a homosexual character on stage, screen or tube, the reader would be bored to tears. Now that this is no longer a requirement — or even a possibility — editors within the gay press have more freedom in making assignments and choosing stories, and their writers are similarly freed from the burden of political correctness that mainstream journalists now shoulder. If the reader wants an informed opinion about queer performance, they're more likely to get it from gay writers in the gay press. This

way?"

Given the explosion of gay-related books, films and television shows, there are inevitably going to be some real dogs. Some of the weakest efforts come from gay writers and performers whose work is lame or unsophisticated. But when it comes to unadulterated condemnation about the gay experience, mainstream Hollywood still holds the copyright. The lesbian and gay journalists who brave the entertainment jungle on a regular basis finally have the opportunity to talk about something relevant to their experience — and talk they will. The good old days are gone — let the good new days begin. ▼

THEATRE

Lovers & rivals

The Studio at Theatre Rhino presents *Bermuda Triangles: the Non-monogamy Experiment* by Sarah Brown, directed by Amy Baxt. *The Non-monogamy Experiment* takes the notion of non-traditional family to extremes. Life becomes surreal when five women embark upon a fantasy in the expanding universe of lesbian sexuality. Lesbian Daddy Lou is thrown for a loop when his Lesbian Princess Sassafras wants to bring her own little Lesbian boy, Micky Penny, into the relationship. Runs April 11 — May 4 in the Studio at Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. Call 861-5079 for tickets and information. ▼



Steve Savage

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman

Frida's heir

The best art show in town right now is at the Mexican Museum. Nahum B. Zenil: Witness to the Self/ Testigo del Ser is the first solo exhibition in the U.S. by a leading—and openly gay—Mexican artist. Zenil's gayness is at the heart of his art, intricate paintings and drawings which use his own face and body in startlingly diverse and original ways.

Zenil sets himself squarely in Mexican art history: *Homage to Diego* shows him standing pocket-size next to the giant of Mexican Modernism, Diego Rivera, and *Frida de mi corazón* presents the face of Frida Kahlo as the flowering heart of the artist. But a primary focus of these self-portraits is the artist's unique place in traditional Mexican society as a proud gay man. In *Esperar la hora que cambiara nuestra costumbre no es fácil* (Waiting for the Time When Our Customs Change is Not Easy), the artist sits naked and vulnerable behind twine like barbed wire. The passivity implied in the painting's title is misleading, for Zenil takes a pro-active stance towards challenging tradition even as he displays virtuosity with the conventions of representation.

With eloquence and humor, he acknowledges the central place of the family in Mexican life, but in a way that questions limited definitions of family. *Nahum, Nahum, Nahum*, for example, is a classic family portrait, but with the artist's face superimposed on every member, from matriarch to infant.

One painting alone is worth the price of admission: *Volande sobre Nueva York*, in which the artist and his companion fly over the Manhattan skyline, their angelic robes lifted so they can piss on those below.

In conjunction with the museum show, Polanco, a gallery of Mexican arts on Hayes Street, is showing graphic works by Zenil. This small but quite lively show of drawings makes a nice adjunct to the terrific and important museum exhibit. ▼

Nahum B. Zenil: Witness to the Self runs through September 1 at the Mexican Museum, Building D, Fort Mason Center. \$3. Call for times. 441-0404. **Nahum B. Zenil: Graphic Works** shows through April 20 at Polanco Gallery, 393 Hayes. 252-5753.



Retrato de Boda (Wedding Portrait), (1983), mixed media on paper, Nahum B. Zenil.



Jacob Wrestling the Angel (1985), mixed media on paper, Nahum B. Zenil.

Eri

ACME Custom

Custom-painted motorcycles of Prairie Prince and Pete the Painter, other artifacts of hot rod culture, reception tonight, 7pm. \$3-10. ACME Gallery, 667 Howard. 777-ACME.

Ballet of the Banshees...

"Resurrection," dance/theatre work about breast cancer, politics and transcendence by Krissy Keefer, Kim Epifano and Gwen Jones. Thru 4/7, call for times. \$13.50-15. Tonight at 8pm.

Norse Auditorium, 275 Hayes. 647-4588.

Club nZinga

Global dance party, host DJ Mongrel. \$5. 9pm-2am. El Rio, 3158 Mission. 282-3325.

The Heather Woodbury Report

"Or, What Ever," an ongoing one-woman 100-character performance novel. Fri. thru 4/26 at 10pm. \$10. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

A Kind of Alaska

"(And other locations)," four short plays by Harold Pinter, presented by Aurora Theatre Co. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun.

at 2pm thru 4/28. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant. (510) 843-4822.

Moonlight Rhapsody

"A Ballroom Fantasy" by SF Ballroom Dance Theatre. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. \$22. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

The Possession of Mrs. Jones

Rock musical by D'Arcy Drollinger, with Kathy Fenker, Jason Mecier, Adrian Roberts, Mary Bond, many more. Thurs.-Sat. thru 5/11 at 8pm. \$10. Bernice St. Playhouse, 21 Bernice. 267-1868.

Psycho Monkey on Planet Earth

A young man interweaves dance and language to tell tale of his twisted family. \$12-15. Thurs.-Sat. thru 4/27 at 8:30pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 826-5750.

Requiem for a Snap Diva

Tribute to the life of Marlon Riggs features performances by Alan Miller, Blackberry, Kristie Fleming, more, benefits Karen Everett's documentary-in-progress on Riggs. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. \$8-12. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St. 863-2989.

Shylock on Valencia Street

Signal Theatre Company's re-working of Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* as a California fable. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 4/20. \$12. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. (510) 273-9277.

Spirit of Dildo

A curio shop of over 50 dildos, thru 4/6. Build. 483 Guerrero. 863-3041.

Underbelly's Little Mermaid

Underbelly Dance-Theater presents an interpretation of Hans Christian Andersen's story, with Maxine Moerman's *In Lydia's House*. Fri. & Sat. thru 4/6 at 8pm. \$10. ODC Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

Le Voyage en Arizona

Paintings and pastels by African French artist William Wilson. Thru 4/6. Jernigan Wicker Fine Arts, 161 Natoma. 512-0335.

V/sf

Guest DJs, go-go dancers, Madeline at the door. \$7 after 10pm. Happy Hour 8-10pm, dance 10pm-4am. 278 11th St. 621-1530.

Andrew Lloyd Webber:

"Music of the Night," theatrical concert starring Kevin Gray. Tues.-Sat. thru 4/7, call for times. \$30-62.50. Tonight at 8pm. Golden Gate Theatre. 776-1999.

Witness to the Self

"Testigo del Ser," first U.S. solo exhibition by Nahum B. Zenil, thru 7/1. Mexican Museum, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-0445.

Sat

Andando Lejos

Exhibition of Tamoanchan, artists' group of political refugees from Latin America. Thru 4/27. Galeria de la Raza, 2857 24th St. 826-8009.

Hamlet

Shakespeare's classic, directed by Linda Ayres-Frederick. \$12-15. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 4/21. Phoenix Theatre, 301 8th St. 621-4423.

Lafayette

String Quartet

Performing Schubert, Beethoven and Grieg. \$18. 8pm. Gould Theatre, Palace of the Legion of Honor, 34th St & Clement. 392-4400.

Lypsinka Must Be Destroyed!

"The First Farewell" Like a glamorous phoenix, Lypsinka rises from the ashes of her Minnellian nightmare. Extended thru 4/21, \$18-20. Tues.-Fri. & Sun. at 8pm, Sat. at 8:10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Queer Studies

"Resisting Dissymmetries: Contested Boundaries and the Construction of Queer Space," a one-day symposium, keynote speakers Biddy Martin, Janet Halley. 10am-5pm. 315 Wheeler Hall. UC Berkeley.

Vikram Seth

Author of *A Suitable Boy* reads in honor of Indian Spring Festival. 2pm. Museum admission: \$6. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

Slam Royale

'95 Poetry Slam team pitted against Portland Poetry Slammers. \$5. 11pm. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 626-2787.

Walking the Dead

Keith Curran's play focuses on a woman who undergoes female-to-male sex change. Wed.-Sun. thru 4/13, call for times. \$12-18. Tonight at 8pm. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Sun

The Baby and the Bathwater

Paintings by Caitlin Mitchell-Dayton and Ruby Neri. Fri.-Sun. thru 4/28. Victoria Room, 180 6th St. 255-0364.

Easter Egg Hunt

1st annual egg hunt in Victorian Park, free. 11am-2pm. SF Maritime Nat'l Historical Park, Fisherman's Wharf. 929-0202.

Easter Recital

Bonnie Hampton, cello, and Nathan Schwartz, piano, perform Bach, Schumann, Britten, more, free. 2pm. Hellman Hall, SF Conservatory of Music, 1201 Ortega. 759-3475.

Easter Sunday

Celebration worship, 9&11am; brunch, Easter bonnet contest, \$7. 1pm; worship, 7pm. MCC/SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

Fuori:

"Essays by Italian/American Lesbians and Gays" contributors Tommi Avicoli Mecca, Giovanna Capone, and Denise Nico Leto read, free. 3:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Thorns and Vines...

"And reading between the lines," erotic sculptural work by Jadine Lum, thru 5/11. Stormy Leather, 1158 Howard. 626-1672.

Mon

Gay Comedy Open Mike

M.C. Sabrina Matthews, aspiring queer comics sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Goldfield & Koldewyn

Musical team in songs romantic and vaudevillian, Mondays thru 4/8. \$10/ 2 drink min'm. Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter. 885-2800.

Richard Goode

Piano virtuoso in recital: Mozart, Chopin, and Schubert. \$14-32. 8pm. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley. (510) 642-9988.

Milk Institute Classes

Harvey Milk Institute spring classes begin, including "Introduction to Fashion Modeling," "Chocolate as a Consuming Passion," "Fried Green Homophobia: Mainstream Images of Lesbians in the 90s," "Auto Maintenance 101 for Butches, Femmes & Queens," more. Call for info: 552-7200.

Poetry Month Celebration

Poet Laureate Robert Haas hosts Francisco X. Alarcon, Marilyn Chin, Thom Gunn, June Jordan, Adrienne Rich, more. \$15. 8pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness. 392-4400.

Tues

Merry Alpern

Window series: photographs of hookers and Johns. Thru 4/27. Shapiro Gallery, 250 Sutter. 398-6655.

Fibra

Celia Munoz's installation. Also: Ed Osborn's *Parabolica*, Fred Tomaselli's *The Urge to be Transported*, and Community Photo. \$4. Thru 6/2. Center for the Arts, 701

Mission. 978-ARTS.

Todd Gray

Photographs of pop culture icons, with Jo Whaley's *Natura Morta*, still lifes. Tues.-Sat. thru 4/27. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

An Inspector Calls

The Royal National Theatre's Tony Award-winning staging of J.B. Priestly's mystery opens. Tues.-Sun. thru 5/5. \$25-50. Tonight at 8pm. Golden Gate Theatre, Taylor at Market. 776-1999.

Milk Institute Classes

Harvey Milk Institute spring classes begin, including "Out of the Closet & Into the Universe: Homoeroticism in Science Fiction, Fantasy & Gothic Humor," "Explosive Performance for Queers," more. Call for info: 552-7200.

QTV SF

New commercial lesbian/gay-oriented TV program for the Bay Area, includes "Your Health" and "Up Close" segments. 7pm. Cable Channel 47.

Voyages

Keith Morrison shows 12 new paintings using Caribbean and global iconography. Thru 4/27. Boman gallery, 251 Post. 296-8677.

What About AIDS?

Exhibition "for the whole family"—science, art, remembrance, runs thru 6/2. \$9. The Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon. 563-7337.

Winds of Freedom

SF Winds of Freedom/SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band performs free concert, features premier of Don Seaver's "Into the Light." 8:15pm. Bethany United Methodist, 1268 Sanchez.

Young Love

Musical/choral performance starring Lea Grant, Kenneth Zink, benefits Bay Area Young Positives. \$12. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Nahum B. Zenil

Graphic works by a leading gay Mexican artist, thru 4/20. Polanco Gallery, 393 Hayes. 252-5753.

Wed 10**Beach Blanket Babylon**

Musical tour around the world now includes the Clintons, Dole and the Village People. Wed.-Sun., call for times. \$16-45. Tonight at 8pm. Club Fugazi, 678 Green. 421-4222.

The Cherry Orchard

American Conservatory Theater presents Chekhov's great human comedy. Thru 6/7, call for times. \$15-45. Geary Theater, 415 Geary. 749-2ACT.

Cozy:

"Notions of Domesticity and Safety" exhibition thru 4/13. Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama. 863-2141.

Esperance

Modus ensemble, in collaboration with Saratoga Internat'l Theater Institute, presents play by Tim O'Brien: legend of Lao Tzu. Wed.-Sun. thru 4/14 at 8pm. \$12-14. Somar Theater, 934 Brannan. 646-6456.

Land of Paradox:

"Japanese Landscape Photography" exhibit, thru 5/19. \$4. Ansel Adams Center for Photography, 250 4th St. 495-7000.

Milk Institute Classes

Harvey Milk Institute spring



Anne Chamberlain teaches "Fried Green Homophobia: Mainstream Images of lesbians in the 90s," as nine new seminars and workshops presented by the Harvey Milk Institute get underway. See Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday listings for more details.

classes begin, including "Body Truth: Dance, Movement for Women," "Shakespeare and the Queen," more. Call for info: 552-7200.

PHFFT—

"An Air Pulsated Kinetic Sound Environment" installation piece by sound artist Trimpin. Thru 4/27. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

Singing Nun

The Tragic and Horrible Life of the Singing Nun written and directed by Blair Fell. Wed.-Sun., call for times. \$20. Tonight at 8pm. Grove St. Playhouse, 39 Grove. 279-4200.

Slavs!

"Thinking About the Longstanding Problems of Virtue and Happiness," by Tony Kushner. Tues.-Sun. thru 4/19, call for times. \$21.50-\$34. Tonight at 8pm. Berkeley Rep Theatre, 2025 Addison, Berkeley. (510) 845-4700.

Jean Taylor

Reading from her new mystery, *The Last of Her Lies*, free. 8pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

Thur**Alive Drawing**

Danielle Abrams teaches a life drawing course thru Harvey Milk Institute. Thurs.

thru 5/16 at 6:30pm. \$110. Build, 483 Guerrero. 552-7200.

Bingo

Gay bingo benefits Coming Home Hospice, every Thurs. \$12. Doors 6pm. Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St. 241-0425.

Bones and Ash:

"A Gilda Story," text by Jewelle Gomez, choreography by Urban Bush Women, music by Toshi Reagon. Thurs.-Sat. at 7:30pm. \$14. Center for the Arts Theater, 700 Howard. 978-2787.

Foster Field

Elizabeth Summers' performance of African-American spoken culture, with accompaniment by Ms. Clothilde's Amen Chorus. Thurs.-Sun. at 9pm thru 4/14. \$12-18. 450 Geary Studio Theatre. 673-1172.

Tony Kushner

Angels in America author reads from new work, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Tina Modotti

Exhibition of work by modernist photographer, thru 6/2. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Bill Scott

Recent paintings by a colorist, reception tonight, 6pm. Tues.-Sat. thru 4/30. Mulligan-Shanoski Gallery, 747 Post. 771-0663.

Silk Stockings

42nd St. Moon's Lost

Musical Series presents '50s musical satire of Soviet Russia, music by Cole Porter. Thurs.-Sun. thru 4/28, call for times. \$18. Tonight at 8pm. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Views from the Heartland

Three Midwest landscape artists, Charles Basham, Dorothy Morgan and Vlada Vukadinovic, show paintings. Reception tonight, 6pm; thru 5/11. John Pence Gallery, 750 Post. 441-1138.

Pamela Z

Composer, performer and audio artist performs Parts of Speech. \$8. 8pm. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Roberto Friedman
Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA
94103

Deadline is the
Friday before issue
date.



This Chicken Float in the Petaluma Easter Parade, circa 1910 (from the Petaluma Argus-Courier Collection) reminds us of our favorite thing about Easter: men in chicken suits. For details on an Easter Egg Hunt and other observances, see Sunday.

This Week's Dinner Specials

Penne Pasta with Chicken & Rock Shrimp, creamy tomato-basil pesto sauce.....9.75

Grilled Fresh Salmon with lemon-dill sauce served on a bed of garlic mashed potatoes.....9.95

Garlic-Ginger Chicken with fresh vegetables & Chinese black bean sauce, served with rice.....7.95

Grilled Pork Chops with apple-raisin dressing, Thai peanut sauce, mashed potatoes or rice.....9.50

Join us for dinner in our heated tropical garden atmosphere

Patio Cafe

531 Castro Street, between 18th/19th
Breakfast/Lunch served from 8:00 AM
Dinner from 5:00 PM nightly

"A winning cross-cultural experience."
Michael Bauer, *SF Chronicle*

"...a relaxing retreat...and absurdly low prices"
Caroline Bates,
Gourmet Magazine

"...packed with inviting, robust flavors..."
Janet Hazen, *SF Bay Guardian*
"The food's so good we want to tell everyone."
Barbara Lane, *SF Weekly*

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Dinner 5:30pm - 9:00pm
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up your
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"HAPPY PAVEMENT."
MATTHEW SWEET, OZ PRAIRIE
and THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS



PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND
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A CORNE MICHAELS PRODUCTION
KIDS IN THE HALL BRAIN CANDY
STORY BY MARK ROSWELL MUSIC BY CRAIG NORTHLEY
DIRECTED BY CHRISTOPHER COOPER COSTUME DESIGNER GREGORY P. KEEN EDITOR DAVID A. MAXIN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARTIN WALTERS
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PRODUCED BY BARNABY THOMPSON AND RICHARD W. WRIGHT
WRITTEN BY TOM ROSENBERG, SIGURJON SIGURVATSSON AND DAVID STEINBERG
DIRECTED BY NORMAN MACDONALD AND BRUCE MCCULLOUGH
CASTING BY KEVIN McDONALD
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARK KINNEY SCOTT THOMPSON PRODUCED BY CORNE MICHAELS WRITTEN BY KELLY MAXIN
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BAR TALK



Steven Underhill

1.900.844.2227

Only 98¢ per minute to respond to ads!

Available only on touch-tone phones in the Bay Area. You must be at least 18 years old to call.

PARTING GLANCES

Hot -n- Hunky Sat 3/9

You in shorts w/a racket sticking out of your backpack. Blond hair w/a smile that just melted me. I was w/a friend & could only smile back & wave good-bye. Please call. ☎ 9201.

Van Ness & Turk, Evening of 2/26
You: drk hair, goatee, very cute. Me: tall shoulder length brunette. Smiled while waiting to cross Van Ness. Followed me into A Clean Well Lighted Place for Books, then disappeared. Would like to meet. Please call! ☎ 9203.

1 California Bus 3/7, 5:10PM
Sat together in back seat. You: gdlng, reading personals, goatee, dk suit, br hair. Me: hunky, balding, goatee, gray slacks, blue blazer. We kept looking at each other, wanted to give you my phone #, but no time. Would like to see you again, call me. ☎ 9204.

BART/Colma, Mon 10:30PM, 3/11
You: cute Asian, tan jacket, knapsack. Me: tall blond guy, blk jacket, newspapers. We exchanged glances at Powell (U sitting against pole), on train, after I got off at Glen Park. ☎ 9205.

Bay Bridge Bear

You: Bear man in green Toyota truck, great smile. Me: Daddy-type in blk BMW. We smiled at the metering light. Would really like more. Pis call! ☎ 9202.

Alameda Beach 3/8

Thm, had a great time talking w/you on the beach. Would love to see you again. Pis call. ☎ 9303.

Black Sand Beach-Marlin-3/18

You: tall, striped towels, old magazine. Me: buzzed hair, goatee, "rings", yellow walkman. Would love to finish what we started...and find out a lot more! Let's try again? Find me! ☎ 9304.

Quentin Lee's "Flow" 3/13

You: AM in beige top, w/friend. Me: WM, tallish, leaning against wall in drk grn jacket. Our numerous looks made us both bashful. Crossed paths later in front of Kabuki. I hope you call. ☎ 9305.

"Mike" March 17-My Place
I showed you my tattoo, you came, call for the real thing. Daddy David. ☎ 9301.

John-Embarcadero Y

We had lots of fun in the shower at the Y. I'm the GAM you used to seduce in the locker room. Where are you now? Please call. ☎ 9306.

B of A- Black Shoulder Bag Guy
I told you I have one too. Enjoyed our brief encounter on Fri 3/15 outside B of A building. Let's encounter more! Call. ☎ 9307.

T. Joe's-Emergencyville-2nd Ad
Thanks for response. Will leave message w/this ad. Would like to talk. Your demeanor & charisma would be someone I would like to know. ☎ 9401.

Kirkham St.-Lover Out Of Town
Weekend of 3/1 or 3/8? You said, "Sometimes D's have to hurt their L's." It hurts not hearing from you, but that's OK!!! Please call-I don't have your number. ☎ 9402.

Lloyd/Tom's D-Day
We met briefly at Tomas's Birthday party on Friday 3/22. I couldn't make it to "V", had to work early AM on Sat. Would love to hook up sometime. Shawn. ☎ 9403.

Richard of Twin Peaks
You & friends were 1st in line at Presidio Theater for "Birdcage" on Sat 3/16 for the 9:40 show. We talked briefly, but didn't get to go further-looks said everything. Let's follow up on our desires. ☎ 9404.

Tom Of South Park
Met at My Place Feb 8-afternoon. Would like to meet again. ☎ 9405.

Powell Muni Tues 3/19 5:30 PM
You: black hair/mustache, suit. Me: dark hair/mustache, same height, very shy. We both got on L to Castro. Saw you later walking down the street. I think you are cute, cute, cute. If you thought I was attractive too, please call. I'd like to know what your name is. ☎ 9406.

Muscle System/Market Street
Friday 3/22 early evening. We had spoken a few weeks earlier on a Sunday when I went into the bookstore. After you showered, I complimented you on your haircut; we talked about Hayes St., David B., & your 10 cups of coffee per year. I waited on Market; you left by 16th St. Can I buy you one of those 10 cups? ☎ 9405.

3/28 11AM-450 Sutter Suite 1306
You: cute, Latin guy. Me: tall, white guy. We had multiple eye contact, before you were walked away for your apt. You know who you are, want more? ☎ 9455

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Friends-Or

I'm a GWM, 37yo, 5'8", 140#, gdlng, mustache, blond, hairy chest. Seeking same. I like movies, theater, outdoors, quiet times and exploring new things. Very alone. ☎ 9206.

International Model Sought
E. Bay hunk seeks handsome San Leandro model w/accnt. You: educated, wary, confused about acting/honesty. Me: wanting you, committed to cause but otherwise committable. ☎ 9207.

Regular Guy Seeks Same
Me: gdlng, GWM, 40, 5'9", 145#, brn/bl. stache, HIV+, smooth bottom. You: gdlng, GWM, 35+, weight prop to height, facial/body hair +, top. Us: interested in exploring LTR based on honesty, respect, trust, commitment, romance. ☎ 9208.

Santa Rosa Man
Masc kind nurturer, handsome, in-shape, HIV+, lots to offer, not in gay world, seeks same 30-40's. Friends, buddyship, LTR & possible partnership in house. ☎ 9127.

S. Bay GWM Seeks Same
I'm an attractive GWM, 5'9", 140#, brn/bl. I'm in my 40's, but look like mid 30's. HIV-. You: GWM or GLM w/the same type build & into reciprocal oral sex only & lots of cuddling. ☎ 9209.

Chocolate But Not Vanilla
Attractive WM, late 30's, 5'11", 160#, short hair, smooth bod, HIV+, in shape, seeks similar in a man of color who's not afraid to experience & explore new territories & good times. No heavy drugs, barflys age 30-45. E. Bay a +. ☎ 9210.

#1 Seeking Capt. Picard
Me: 5'5", 170#, brn/bl, 26, HIV HM. You: 25-40, W/HM, top versatile. Must be able to exceed Worg 9. No time, spare anomalies. ☎ 9211.

Gentleman's Gentleman
Personal servant & houseboy wanted by this naughty, bossy English bachelor. Be clean-cut, personable. A little bit cheeky is OK, but there will be discipline. Upper Haight. ☎ 9212.

GWM Seeks Romantic GLM
For friendship & possible LTR. Me: GWM, 5'10", 165#, 32, brn/bl, romantic, fun loving, sincere, athletic & down to earth. You: GLM, centered, romantic, spiritual, athletic, & down to earth. ☎ 9213.

Slender Mostly Top Seeks Mate
Me: GWM, nice looking, wear glasses, 38, mod hairy, HIV-. Like the arts, theater, outdoors, exploring SF & lots of playful sex. Seeking 25-35, smooth-ish, guy w/some same interests, the ability to share & open to possible LTR. ☎ 9214.

Wanted Lovable Top/Guts & Glory
I'm 35, 6', med build, van dyke, prof artist, self-employed, funny, energetic & unaffected. UB similar; tough, solid, butch & hairy. No snobs, wimps or slob, please. ☎ 9215.

CR Bear

Where are you? Looking for mature bear around 50 for friendship, possible LTR. We both are kind, gentle, 5'10", HIV-, sane, fun, serious, hairy, cut. I'm 5'9", 185#, brn, bald, beard. You: heavy set, gentle bear. ☎ 9217.

Where are you?

Attractive GWM looking for Mr. Right. Me: 26, blond, 5'8", 165#. We are both masculine, physically fit & HIV-. Prefer under 35 & in shape, only. You: Top. Me: Bottom. You never know what may happen to us if you respond. ☎ 9218.

Man Looking For Man

Dad seeks boy. I'm 41, 6'2", 180#, HIV+, ruggedly handsome, drk hair, hazel eyes, butch and romantic, seeks boy, 30-40, for fun & LTR? Must be in shape, ND. ☎ 9308.

Oral?

WM, muscular swimmers build, handsome & hung, likes to kick back for a cleancut WASP w/a deep throat & probing tongue. HIV-, NS, ND. UB2. ☎ 9309.

Us-Ness

I've got a pretty good me-ness going-rewarding career, great friends, many interests. Looking for someone special to share my life. I'm a young looking, attractive 52yo, 6', 215#, BB, Lt br/bl, beard, masc, affectionate, HIV+ & have a great sense of humor. Would like to meet a bear who is masc, nice-looking, responsible, strong, tender, fun & capable of commitment. ☎ 9310.

Sex Without Love...

Is like a day w/o sunshine. Feel the same? Then I want to meet you for some serious lovemaking. I'm an attr GWM, 72, 5'8", 162#, & you are 18-45, serious, gdlng & romantic. LTR possible. ☎ 9311.

The Sexiest Guy In Town

Even the sexiest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. ☎ SAFE

Bi WM in Berkeley

New in the Bay area & not into club/bar scene. 28yo, 6'2", 185#, brn/bl, prsnl, looking for a very discreet straight acting friend, 20-35yo, prefer student or grad. student. Must be HIV- & healthy. ☎ 9312.

Masculine Redhead

Handsome, 35, 6', 175#, loves travel, the arts, exploring, new to SF, seeks masc, fit male w/sense of humor. All nationalities welcome. Hablo espanol. ☎ 9313.

Desire Sensual GM(Hairy "A+")

GWM, 39, 5'8", 165#, smooth, mustache, delights in quality sensual play (kissing, cuddling, touching/massage, holding & being held). You be caring, respectful, honest, articulate into feelings. No attitude. ☎ 9314.

Seeking Relationship

GM, Caucasian/Arab/Indian, 30yo, Hotel executive, intelligent, romantic, warm, seeks loving man for relationship. Will be coming to SF in May for a few weeks & hope to meet that special someone. I'm willing to relocate to SF if we are meant for each other. ☎ 9315.

Non-Recovering Chocoholic

Seeks vanilla creme, lemon filled, or caramel nougat chocolate (I have a passion for bi-racial African men: Afro-Asian, Caribbean blacks, etc). I'm a gym-toned, 42yo, GWM, 5'11", 178#, trim beard, shaved head. We're both masculine & hung. ☎ 9316.

Spring Fever!

25, Asian, creative, fit, intelligent, w/great sense of humor seeks GWM, mid 20's-30's, professional, funny, smart, doesn't necessarily know which road to take, but knows direction headed. ☎ 9317.

Fat, Fifty & Fun

You will like music, movies, quiet evenings at home. Love to cuddle, HIV-, 30-50 OK. Prefer GWM. Let's get together?? ☎ 9216.

Sex Is Not Enough

GWM, 40, 6'6", 200#, HIV-, NS/ND, brn/bl, beard, bottom. Professional who is easy going, compassionate, considerate, cuddlier & bonus: cat lover. Wide interests: Babylon 5 to porn. Are you compatible/complementary? ☎ 9318.

Platonic Gdlng Slim Retired Guy
Mustache, crewcut, hip, 5'9", 150#, HIV-, seeks similar guy, nonsexual. Interests: music, opera, politics, science, etc. Smoke & Bars OK. SF. ☎ 9319.

One Of A Kind

Affable & non-plused GWM, 41, 5'9", 160#, into the outdoors, workouts, travel, theaters, & home life seeks similar, clean-shaven, physically fit, affectionate, & N guy for friendship & possibly LTR in Concord/Walnut Creek area. ☎ 9320.

Loverman, Where Can You Be?
G/W/H/M, brn/bl, young, cute, slim, looking for masc, discreet GBM or GAM for relationship between 18-30. Players, 1 night stands, bums, overweight & mental don't reply. Serious responses only. Tops preferred. I'll be waiting... ☎ 9321.

Oral

HIV+, handsome, GWM, 42, hung, ISO fit GWM, 35-50 w/ average size cock for mutual cocksucking. E. Bay a +. ☎ 9322.

Attractive Latino 25
Seeking Latin or Caucasians, 22-36, for friendship, maybe more. Prefer outgoing & extroverted guys. I'm 57", 170#, dark features, some facial hair, college student. Sincere replies only. ☎ 9323.

Top Me With Passion & Kisses
Healthy, stocky, GWM, HIV+, 36, 5'6", hairy, down to earth, Italian, looking for honest, sensitive, basic guy that's any size or race w/a positive attitude & a smile. Enjoy dinners, movies, holding hands, cuddling, walks, talks & especially kissing! ☎ 9407.

Latex Love
Play safe! Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. ☎ SAFE

Wanted: Gdlng Latin/Asian Men
Very Gdlng GWM, 39, & HIV+ seeks other gdlng, HIV+, Latin or Asian men for friends and maybe more. I'm 6', 198#, w/short dark hair & mustache. I have "bedroom eyes," & a very smooth body. Please contact me, you will not regret it. NS/ND. ☎ 9408.

Simply Guy Type Stuff!
No tea party types please! I enjoy the company of physically active guys into backroad adventures; camping, hiking, skating, dancing, etc. Simple life style & relationships. I'm black 5'10", 160#, thin build. ☎ 9409.

37yo GWM Nudist In SF
Looking for other nudists for quiet, romantic, fun times at home, helpful LTR. 6'2", 215#, husky, attractive. Please be h/wt prop. 30-40's. Like movies, video/board games, books, cuddling, playing, talking, coffee in bed on Sunday mornings. ☎ 9410

Let's Settle Down Now

Gay Asian Artist, Chinese, very boyish & attractive, 48, 5'9", 150#, gym-toned, in search of a gdlng & physically fit professional to date. Hopefully to build a LTR w/GM, 25-35, open-minded, adventurous, work-out. ☎ 9411.

Can This Ad Bring Us Together?

Handsome, intelligent, professional, GWM, 37, 5'8", 145#, br/bl, good shape, HIV-, seeks cute, masc, fun loving, clean shaven, secure, NS, GWM, 28-38, HIV-. For sincere, honest, romantic relationship. If this is you call now. ☎ 9412.

GWM Seeks GAM

Me: attractive, 6'1", 170#, late 20's, bld/bl, fair complexion, in shape, affectionate, masculine, versatile/bottom. You: attractive Asian, 25-35, in shape, independent, masculine, versatile/top, dark complexion a +. HIV stats unimportant. ☎ 9413.

Athletic Asian

Masculine, 48, 5'9", 150#, seeks similar, smooth, clean-shaven, gym-toned, guy adventurous companion into hiking, workouts, sports, arts, ethnic foods, & intellectual pursuits. ☎ 9414.

Why Do The Nelson Twins Still

Play doctor? Because they can. Attractive, 33, 6'2", long bl/bl, STD/HIV-, seeks laughing twin for monogamous incest. Metaphysics, fitness, & soft capitalism ass passionate interests wouldn't hurt. ☎ 9415.

Military Man Wanted

By attractive Polynesian, 38, 5'10", 1182#, BB, blk/bl, has home near Travis Airforce Base & SF. You be muscular BB or in shape (military a +), NS, well hung, top, 20-45, any race. Discretion assured. ☎ 9416.

Let's Talk

I'm a GWM, HIV-, who is honest sincere, & needs someone who is understanding, caring, loving, and who will be there for each other. ☎ 9417.

Are You A Sngl Fin. Dist. Prsnl?
Single, tall, average, GWM, southern, 48, professional, HIV-, smoker, socially inclined, cut, fra/p, g/a, brite, witty, romantic, grounded, lkg for single GWM professional, cut, & similar background for LTR. ☎ 9418.

Ready To Be Happy W/Someone...

Are You? Healthy, HIV+, 28yo, GWM seeks soulmate. Seeking GWM/LM, 25-35, who wants a life! Party, play & clubs a +. Knowing how to handle them a must! Be in shape, cute, versatile or top preferred. Kinky? ☎ 9419.

Want To Live A Little?

Muscular, gdlng, bl/bl, 37yo, 165#, HIV+, looking for other "a+" or "a+ friendly" guys for living, laughing, possibly loving, a & working out. I have a great body & positive outlook on life, & self sufficient. You be the same. ☎ 9420.

Hungry Sub Bottom Wanted

Hot man, 58, 5'8", 130#, slim muscular build wants gdlng sub. I'm aggressive, very verbal & caring. If you are in good shape call. I'll make you special. ☎ 9421.

Old School Lovin'

Attractive sexy, huggable, sweet & lovable GBM, 26, 5'10", 170#, masc & very fit. Simply looking for a top B/H/M, 25-35, who is sexually appealing, fit, masc, strong affectionate & loving. First friendship & poss LTR. No fems pls. ☎ 9422.

Real Husband Material

Lking to date, wed, be proud of a real man. I'm GWM, HIV+, look much younger than 41, very gdlng, 5'8", sexy swimmer's build, equipped, br/bl, intelligent, prsnl, conservative yet open, well-mannered, clean, very healthy, romantic, true, very tactile, hot in the sack. Seeking quality. No games. ☎ 9423.

Ultimate Romantic

Very handsome GWM, 6'2", 210#, prsnl, brn/gm, excellent body, nice endowment, seeks same, no exceptions. Many diverse interests, very fun & passionate, great sense of humor. UB masc, but tender, exciting, adventurous, warm. ☎ 9424.

Wanted: Hot Latino

Attractive BWWM, 33, 6', 190#. Masc dude w/long brn hair & goatee in E. Bay is lking for Latin male 18-38. Must be healthy, HIV-, attractive, honest, easy going guy w/a nice body. If this sounds like you, give me a call & let's hook up. Pis no fems, serious only. ☎ 9425.

SEEKING ADVENTURE

The Hottest Guy In Town

Even the hottest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Always play safe. Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. ☎ SAFE.

Serious Hot

Blond, cute, 40's, stallion accepting sexy, hot body & hormones. Into the best sex in SF. ☎ 9219.

2 Hot Men 2 Blow You
Man w/big dick wanted to satisfy our oral needs, w/no reciprocation or strings. UB well hung, good body, under 35 & love getting head. We're gdlng, muscular & hungry. ☎ 9220.

Free Quality Massage
Strong, sensual, nurturing, full-body Swedish, massage for nicely built young men. I'm 6'2", 175#, 43, gdlng, masculine, sincere. Experienced. Table. Because you'll enjoy it! ☎ 9221.

Seeking Young Boys
I will give full body massage to boys 18-22 years. Also I'm an oral expert. AM & uncult a +, but not necessary. Give me a call & treat yourself to a massage. ☎ 9222.

Black Curly Hair? Blue Eyes?
Glasses? A munchable piece of meat! Into outstanding oral work done on you? Into leather, but not necessarily S&M? Cut or uncult makes no difference. At least 5'10" in hi? Butch? Friendly? Definitely not a bike club member. If you qualify in at least 1/2 of the above, I could make you very happy. ☎ 9224.

Crewcut Dude-New To SF
GWM, 6'2", brn/blu, cleancut, masc, attractive, HIV-, versatile. Seeking similar type WM who is attractive, well endowed, under 30, in shape & not promiscuous. It could be good! ☎ 9225.

Double Chocolate Treat
I need another hung, masculine, mature, black brother to give a throat tube to my oral serviceman. Please either live in or be free to travel to the E. Bay on short notice. Deep throat experts needed also. I have aroma and X video. ☎ 9226.

Wanna Fight?
Boxing, wrestling naked, bar fights w/studly guy. Be manly aggressive, twisted & over sexed like me. ☎ 9136.

Big Men
GBM, 5'11", 235#, handsome, hung seeks big, husky, hefty & pleasantly fat men for sensual, romantic encounters. If you're a big man, I'm interested. ☎ 9156.

Cocksucker
GWM, 5'11", brn/brn, friendly, seeks masc, in shape, 18-35yo, GWM/HM. Enjoy long sessions. My mouth all over your Levi's, shorts, cock & balls. Peninsula OK. ☎ 9227.

Sensual Sexy Fun Top
The objective is pleasure. I love to fuck. If you can handle it & like it, then let's do it! I'm 40yo, GWM, good body, good heart, great mind. UB: 25-35yo, clean shaven, good shape, no attitude. Call me. ☎ 9228.

Black Or Latino Males
Let's get together for fun, romantic evenings. I'm 33, WM, drk hair & eyes, mustache, sideburns, nice face and toned body. ☎ 9223.

Cocksucker Earns Your Load
Because w/his skill you can't wait to shoot your thick cream! Big loads are best loads: a day without a mouthful lacks sun/moon/stars! You have nothing to lose but your load & wherever BART goes, I go. Call now! ☎ 9230.

Cream Me
Long hair, cute like to drink it. No hurry, slow sucks. Late 30's, fun, sexy, blue collar oriented. Older OK. Also likes young boy holes, only. ☎ 9231.

Tried Of The Same Ole Shit?
Do you dig, heavy macho intense dirty talk, but are sick of phone sex? Do you dig JD but meet fuckers/suckers? Like buddy to buddy action, but meet top bottoms? Do you dig getting wasted, but meet ND? Let's party at my place (Oakland) late PM. ☎ 9232.

Seeking Stud Dad!
Very well-built, smooth, butch boy seeks masculine, muscular, handsome Dad for friendship & much more. I am eager to please, willing to give & learn. Dad is passionate, very handsome, hard-bodied & HIV- (I am). A butch Dad w/a masculine attitude gets me hard! ☎ 9233.

Young, Hispanic, Black Tops
Sexy blond, nice butt wants to lick you all over then bend over, let you play w/my nice bubble butt & you take it from there! Average to smaller endowment a +! ☎ 9234.

Big Dick Seeks Deep Throat
For regular probing. Be mature, open, flexible. Know who you are & what you want. Endurance, hairy +. ☎ 9229.

Wanted: Older, Hairy Nympho
36yo, WM, lives in Redwood City wants early AM encounters w/HIV-, older men. Four star quality. ☎ 9235.

Let's Play Strip Psychotherapy
You strip naked & bare all your problems while amateur psychiatrist provides soothing massage therapy. Free for masculine guys w/trim waist lines, 20-42, by lean masculine WM, 40. ☎ 9236.

Ride Me Hard & Fast
Just shut up & ride! WM, 30, 5'10", 200#, b/bl, muscle hung, 48" ch, 31" w, clean-cut wants gdlng & very masculine men to top me. Call anytime, even late nite. ☎ 9237.

Aggressive Top Seeks Submissive
Dominant AM, 5'6", 145#, looking for guys who are well built & ready to put up your real end for a long time. I'll satisfy your needs & make you scream for joy. ☎ 9238.

Horny Tops
Want to get off? Call Jack. Let's talk. Can be regular relief for the right guy. ☎ 9239.

Looking For...
Deep throat, cocksucker w/defined pecks & big nipples. You love to suck dick, I'll work your nipples. Slim, GWM, 35, 5'11", 150#, goatee, hairy butt w/big dick & shaved balls. Open wide. N. Bay or SF. Prefer regular service, one time OK too! ☎ 9240.

Sweet Yng Butt/My Face, Tongue
Won't forget your dick, but your sexy cute butt will drive me crazy. I will make you squirm & squirt w/pleasure! I'm 30 something, gdlng, your 28-30, in shape, clean & sexy, total pleasure for you!! ☎ 9241.

Hey, Scat Boy
Blond stud will bend over & feed you. Photo available, just say where to send it. ☎ 9242.

Str8/Bi BJs Free
For young, smooth WM, 18-21. Bicurious? Safe, discreet, cleancut WM has porn videos & massage machines. BB/Jocks a +. ☎ 9242.

Asian Cocksucker
37, 5'11", 185#, blk short hair, brn eyes, smooth skin seeks South Americans, Latin, Puerto Ricans to suck off. Thick cocks a+. Be under 50 yet over 21. Let me swallow it all. SF to SJ. ☎ 9243.

Gd Things Cum In Small Packages
Sexy, hot, gdlng, GWM, 5'5", 123#, dk, brn/hzl, stache, goatee, 44 (look 30), toned & lean. I want hot sex w/sexy, gdlng guy, my age or younger. Be in good shape, ht/wt prop. Could become regular thing. ☎ 9244.

Cute BM Wants WM Sugardaddy
Hi, I'm young, black, attractive, educated, preppy & lonely! I'm looking for a gdlng white sugardaddy. You must be sincere, nice, fun to be with, & a good communicator. Interested?? ☎ 9245.

Spread 'em
N. Bay young WM ISO men 18-35, race & health unimportant, to spread 'em for cock, balls, ass & deep throat pleasure, w/a 1/2 hr. massage fee. As long as you wish. ☎ 9246.

White Tops
GBM, 48, tall, bottom, swimmer's build, seeks masculine easy going guy. I want a good butt pounding. ☎ 9328.

Top Wants Asian Bottom
Hot, gdlng, GWM, 30's wants Asian or Hispanic, "No holes barred" boy-top for lots of safe/butt play. I travel to SF often. Ad \$855 give me a call. Serious only, no flakes, please. ☎ 9329.

Hairy Ass Arab
Arab w/a hairy ass, gr eyes, great big nipples & tight ass, is looking for men who are interested to stretch & start his ass in the art of FF. ☎ 9330.

Let Me Tell You How Big It Is
As I learn to worship your big fat dick. Attractive, GWM, 40, bearded, loves to hear dirty talk/instructions while eating dick. Hung only. ☎ 9340.

248# Chubby, 6'3", Stache, 48
Wants gentlemen to suck off on a regular basis. Gives good head. No recip. necessary. Serious only. No \$ to meet be clean. ☎ 9331.

Daytime JO-Sex Buddy
Nice looking, discreet WM, 6', 40's, 170#, HIV-. Fun sincere, easy going & honest, hung w/big balls seeks daytime buddy for mutual pleasure & release. ☎ 9332.

Sexy Seniors
Hung (9"), black senior enjoys similar seniors; all races welcome. Let's enjoy nudity, privacy, XX videos, aroma & drinks. Calls returned 6AM to 7AM. Direct contact phone # required. Serious only please. ☎ 9348.

Dad Wants Some Ass
I want to look, touch, squeeze, massage, tickle, probe, spank & screw your hot & hungry butt. Me: attrac, GWM, 46, 6'5", 250#, football player build. You: attrac, GWM, 18-35, slim, smooth-mouth body hair & nice buns. ☎ 9335.

Handsome Athletic
Smooth skinned Asian Male wants to receive full body head to toe, long & firm oil massages on a regular basis. ☎ 9244.

Cocksucker
Hungry for dick. One time or regular servicing for big bears by big man. Need instruction & verbal abuse. ☎ 9334.

Something Different
My fingers, lips, & hot mouth are waiting to make love to your body. Prefer men under 45 w/smooth to lightly hairy body. You be drug & disease free. No reciprocation necessary. Call today. ☎ 9336.

What's Luv Got To Do With It?!
2 gdlng, bottom men 33 & 38yo. We're seeking gdlng, dominant, top men, hung & ready to party. 1,2,3 men you name it! ☎ 9337.

Horny Old Man
60yo, bottom in San Rafael needs occasional safe fuck. Would like to meet someone desiring get together on a regular basis. Tell me what turns you on. Discreet, trustworthy. ☎ 9338.

Erotic Explorer
My body is my temple, but it's also my laboratory & my playground. Athletic, in-shape, youthful, 41yo, GWM seeks equally imaginative & adventurous men in top physical condition for un-hurried explorations. ☎ 9339.

Straight Talk From E. Bay
Looking for hairy, in-shape, married man, healthy, 35-55, who enjoys being worshipped & serviced orally by fit, bearded, mature cocksucker. You: hung & cut. NS/ND, aroma OK. Call! ☎ 9341.

Attn: African-American Males!
WM, 45, 185#, br/bl, musc, masc, HIV-, bottom seeks mature AF-AM males for frequent erotic sessions. No games, no trips, no BS, just good company & a very deep throat to share & enjoy. I'm waiting for your call. ☎ 9342.

A1 Oral Service Delivered
SF GWM, HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to guys who dig getting sucked off. Prefer trim, mature, no reciprocation. ☎ 9343.

Jockstrap Wrestling
Handsome, muscular, GWM seeks others who are turned on by erotic wrestling. Open to all fantasies & skill levels. No heavy rough housing, just good, clean, sweaty fun. ☎ 9333.

Satisfaction...Guaranteed
BM, 6', 190#, very masculine, muscular, attractive, HIV-, needs to service strong, confident, athletic, relaxed guys. No games...be honest. ☎ 9427.

Snug Fit
You: love anal sex, bottom, magnet type relentless fucking, tight muscle, must have veiny arms & washboard abs, defined physique. Me: muscle top fucker, bent on domination, master, entertain new fantasies, open minded. ☎ 9428.

Kickback
Oral worship for masc men under 45. Must be HIV-/discrete free. ND. Days or evenings. No reciprocation necessary. Call today. Discretion assured. ☎ 9429.

Chubby Chaser Wanted
36yo, bottom, GWM, seeks top for passionate, sage sex. I'm 5'11", 300# #, HIV-, hairy, FR-A/P, GR-P. Prefer mature (over 30), not closeted, hairy bear. NS/ND. ☎ 9430.

Black Slim Bottom
Fairly attractive, 155#, 5'9", 38, looking for top w/white cock & dick, race unimportant. Asians a +. ☎ 9431.

Big Bodybuilder Seeks Big Top
6'1", 235#, BB bottom seeks extra large hung top to plow my hard muscle butt. Looking for the city's biggest. ☎ 9432.

Eat Me!
Sexy, masculine, hairy bear, 43, 5'5", 135#, HIV-, w/hot crotch seeks hungry talented buddy for long hot sessions of oral worship & service. Verbal, imaginative dominant, same, & healthy. ☎ 9433.

Steady Sex Buddy & Friendship
Cute Afro-Am 25, 5'6", 155#, seeks W/LM, 24-34. Be HIV-, practice safe sex. Also very gdlng/cute, well endowed or average. A top who enjoys being serviced. No 1 night stands, what so ever, or games. Serious responses only. Will return all calls. ☎ 9434.

Hot Stud Seeks Hot Ass
Experienced butt plower wants to bury his big tool in your wet hole. I'm handsome 30yo male, 5'11", 170#. You: handsome male, 30-40's, good shape, tight bubble butt, w/facial hair. ☎ 9435.

Bottom Likes To Suck
I want my little tight ass "massaged" & pleasantly fucked after I suck your cock-taking it down my throat. WM, 54yo, 5'2", 120#, HIV-mustache. Race/looks not important. Let's just enjoy sex. Aroma a big +. Marlin my place. ☎ 9436.

Alameda/E. Bay Tops
Cute WM, 33, 6'1", dark hair w/stache, trim body & big, firm slightly hairy buns wants your dick. Let me ride that hard dick while you play w/my pecks & nipples. ☎ 9437.

Black Bear
GWM, 6'2", 240#, 53, looking for heavy set Afro-Am man, any age, for fuck buddy. Good kisser, enjoys tit & ass play. ☎ 9438.

Hard Body Bottom
Muscular, eager & well-defined bottom, active & giving lover, 35, b/bl wants to meet skilled & passionate tops for hot daytime or evening action. Prefer men who are either well hung or well built. Both A+. ☎ 9440.

Looking For Afternoon Sex?
Me: slim, smooth, sexy, 37yo, bottom. You: in shape, HIV-, NS, horny, hung, under 45yo, top, for afternoon romp at your place. Extras: blk stud, place near Fin. Dist., 3-ways, fun-loving, & sane. Safe only. ☎ 9441.

Latex Love
Play safe! Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. ☎ SAFE

Big Man Seeks Daddy's Boy
Me: bld/blu, short beard, balding, 39, 5'11", 285#, bulk male looks hairy, gdlng, 7 1/2 uncult. You: smaller, hairy, hungry & horny. Wants to take daddy's dick all the time. No drugs, fems, hustlers. Hairy butt big +. ☎ 9442.

Massure Seeks
Gdlng guys w/big dicks &/or hot ass. I'm handsome & workout, you be same. Take my 8 1/2 up your butt after we 69 to get the juice flowing. Be nasty, be hot, I'm a cocksucker. ☎ 9443.

Handsome BB Wants Pussy Cat
He likes to play w/you till you turn into a pussy cat in heat, eat your clean bubble butt, pin you down & ride you till you cum in ecstasy. If you like he would tie you up, tease you till you beg him to ravage you ass. BB, 35, Hawaiian, V-shape torso, broad chest, trim waist, big arms! ☎ 9444.

Men Into Scrotum
Dude, do you get a hard-on when seeing a dude sit w/his legs spread showing his then average scrotum? Looking for dudes into their bag as much as their dick. Masc, BiW dude, 34, 5'10", 150#, seeking masculine white dude, 20-30's, slender-average build. Let's check out our manhood & JO. ☎ 9445.

1956 Roadster
Beige hardtop convertible, 25 cubic inch turbo charger engine, power-seat, high mileage but excellent condition, requires expert mechanic(s)! for complete servicing. EOE. ☎ 9446.

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Slave looking for a master to serve & to service willing & eager to be trained to satisfy your needs. SM & BD, let's talk. I'm 36, 5'11", 185#, GWM, attractive. You're fit & attractive. Thank you sir. ☎ 9245.

Shorts
I like showing off my hard cock in skimpy shorts & getting sucked. Leave me a steamy message w/a way to get a hold of you & your fantasy. ☎ 9246.

Bondage For Asians
WM, late 40's, will strip, tie you up, play w/your cock/balls/tits & make you cum. Muscular a +. ☎ 9247.

Sex Crusade; Top Seeks Top
Bi-curious WM 35, 6'2", 180#, sexy, solid, hung, seeks tops or couples for 3-ways, maybe cruise the sex clubs? Top must be 25-45, in good shape & hung extra thick. I like to watch, let's do it! ☎ 9248.

A Cock & JO Addict Seeks Others
GAM, 5'8", 140#, looking for men who are obsessed w/their cock. It would be nice if you like cockrings, playing discreetly in public, being masturbated, pumping, and are shaved. Expected: NS, ND, clean, HT/WT prop (No gymtone), poss LTR. ☎ 9249.

Girlie Boys
Bear dad, 6', 250#, disciplines cubbies, 25-40, who wear nylon briefs, panties, garter belts, stockings, etc. Total humiliation, spanking, shaving, good BD. ☎ 9344.

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You Love To Clean...
And take orders. Dominant WM seeks compulsive cleaner to service house & body on a regular basis. Age/looks unimportant. ☎ 9447.

Pink Meat
Bi, built, hung, handsome college Jock, 27, 185#, 6', seeks flitting top who is patient & tolerant of party favors & latex. Want to twist/turn my tender pink soft center? ☎ 9448.

Feet Cleaner/Foot Stool
HIV-, hairy, attr., E. Bay man, 48yo, wants to grovel, lick, & kiss, nice looking, hot feet. Want genuinely dominate masters into having a submissive, masculine, foot worshipper. ☎ 9449.

Feet First
Lifelong excitement looking at & fantasizing about men's barefeet. Very aroused, sensually & sexually by kissing, licking, smelling crossing barefeet in reciprocal action & JO. Gdlng E. Bay, GWM, 5'8", 140#, tan, bearded, HIV-, NA/ND. Let's Play. ☎ 9450.

Looking To Get Wired
GWM, 29yo, b/bl. Noise electrode looking for experienced electrician to teach about amps & volts. ☎ 9451.

Dominant Master
Seeks slave to train. 6'3", 190#, GWM, wants submissive GWM to train his mind & body for his pleasure. Serious only. ☎ 9452.

COUPLES

GW Couples Wanted!
By handsome GAM, clean-cut, smooth-skinned, boy next door, 28, I want to be your Live Sex Toy. Let me fulfill all your fantasies. ☎ 9168.

GW Couple Seek GW Couple
For friendship and fun! We're both top or bottom. We like to watch & enjoy. Believe us it will be worth your wild. ☎ 9169.

Rub-A-Dub-Dub, 3 Men In A Tub
2 gdlng GWM lovers w/ facial hair, 40's, HIV+, seek adventurous individual(s) for hot times beginning in a hot tub. Top, bottom, versatile. ☎ 9170.

GW Couple Sk Masc Men 4 3-Way
Top: 53, 6'3", 225#, brn/brn, very hairy, bearded. Bottom: 42, 5'9", 230#, brn/hzl, mod hairy, full thick trimmed beard. Both HIV- & Bear types. Seek versatile real men over 30 to visit us in E Contra Costa. Looks, size, race unimportant, please no game players or phonies. ☎ 9171.

Santa Rosa Hornies
GWM couple, late 30's, seeks singles/couples for hot sexual encounters. We are both masculine, muscular, very sexy & HIV-. You be the same & we will definitely have a hot time. ☎ 9250.

Suburban Couple?
Handsome GLM, 6', 165#, gym-toned wants to play w/ mid 20's or younger suburban couple. Bring some excitement to your bedroom. ☎ 9453.

OTHER

HIV+, Athlete's Social 4 Singles
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Seeking For Marriage
Bi-GM, seeking lesbian/straight women for mutual convenience. I'm 22 muscular, well-defined, professional dancer. Somebody who likes to be entertained & have fun. I will take care of the expenses. ☎ 9345.

SF Granddad
Slim, professional, GWM, 60's, beard, mustache, balding, HIV-, still a country boy at heart, seeks congenial affectionate grandson who is comfortable in the company of an older guy. Reciprocal oral tendencies a big +. Yum, Yum. ☎ 9346.

Typing Stiff Stuff?
Do your secret fantasies end up as explicit stories? Mine do. Let's get six other pornographers together for mutual critiques. Looks unimportant, stories are. ☎ 9347.

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Washington State Mr. Leather '96 contestants (l to r): Martin Garcia, second runner-up; Vince Sharkey, the winner; and Aubrey Hart Sparks, first runner-up.

Sashville in Seattle

by Mr. Marcus

It becomes increasingly more satisfying to travel to Seattle for the annual Washington State Mr. Leather Organization's contest, which is usually the climax of Leather Pride Week there. Each year, the crowds get bigger, and every known leather/fetish-oriented group in the city engages in one form of celebration or another, all mostly geared to raising much-needed funds.

This year, the festivities were even more fulfilling and inclusive, with leather people from up and down the West Coast, Canada and numerous other places. A strong San Francisco contingent featured the Dowager Empress Jose Sarria.

The Cuff, Seattle Eagle, Thumper's, Encore and Neighbors made their premises available, and the Landes House bed and breakfast has got to be one of the most elegant hostels you could ever find on this coast.

There was the usual meet and greet the contestants (Aubrey Hart Sparks and Martin Garcia of Seattle and Vince Sharkey from Olympia) and judges (IML Larry Everett, Mr. Alaska Leather Roy Perry, NLA Co-Chair K.T. Chase, Seattle videographer Jim Black, board members Wes Randall and Jeff Henness, and I think I was in

there somewhere) at the Cuff on Friday night.

Saturday morning, the pre-judging took place at the Cuff, and promptly at 2000, Neighbors filled to capacity, including co-sponsors Miller Brewing (and their youthful and gorgeous reps), who accepted an Emerald Award from the board of directors.

Emcee Frank Nowicki of Washington, D.C., was loquacious throughout until he was given the International Emerald Award. As the winner of this award last year, I was obliged to make the presentation, and for once, Vicki Nowicki was almost speechless. "Almost," I said. But the award was well-deserved, and Frank was most eloquent in accepting it.

Empress Koko of Seattle performed a dazzling production number, various local gay politicians gave inspiring speeches, and the fantasies presented were (as always in Seattle) thought-provoking and right on target.

After the leather appearances, speeches, jock competition and impromptu questions, the scores were delivered to tally master Spencer Bergstedt and tally mistress Ronda Vandemeer. Within minutes, the results were made

known: second runner-up, Martin Garcia; first runner-up, Aubrey Hart Sparks; and the winner, Mr. Washington State Leather '96, Vince Sharkey of Olympia.

Sharkey also holds the title of Mr. Olympia Leather 1995-96. He's tattooed and pierced in all the right places, and has interesting leather gear. He's also single and definitely not looking. It was a great contest; even the Dowager Empress Jose was impressed. La Jose is a master groper — just ask Mr. Seattle Leather Scott Smithson!

The leather community of Seattle is alive and well and doing it right. It was a pleasure once again to visit that beautiful city and all the leather icons of the Northwest. You really should check it out sometime. You will not be disappointed!

Probing questions

Last Thursday, March 28, a whopping 10 studly dudes trekked the boards at the SF Eagle to compete for the Mr. July 1997 spot on the Bare Chest Calendar. Newly sashed judges Mr. Daddy's Leather Gary Virginia, Mr. SF Eagle Leather Joe Piazza and Mr. Edge Leather Gary Strickland put them all through their paces with



In her first appearance at a major leather function, the Widow Norton Jose Julio Sarria Empress I de San Francisco (in plaid no less!) is surrounded by royalty and leather icons at the Mr. Washington State Leather '96 contest in Seattle.

LEATHER SCENE

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

All phone numbers are in the 415 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Thursday, April 4

Mr. August 1997 will be chosen at the Bare Chest Calendar contest at the Eagle at 2200. Win \$100. Also the Knights of Malta will be having a \$5 beer bust, 2100-2400.

Former Mr. Drummer Graylin Thornton and the current Mr. San Jose Drummer Wolf Harmon present a Full Moon party at Greg's Ballroom in San Jose with a beer/soda bust, Best Cheeks in Chaps contest and entertainment by Omar Bradley, Flex Gamble and Diamond John. Benefits the Aris Project and SF's Project Open Hand. Coors beer will match dollar for dollar all moneys raised.

Saturday, April 6

Daylight-saving time goes into effect tonight, so set your clock forward one hour whenever you finally hit the hay!

The 22nd Annual Cable Car Awards tonight. Did you vote? Honorable citizens in our community who have done outstanding things will be honored at the SF Gift Center. Doors open 1830; show at 2000. Come as

you are and have fun.

Defenders MC hosts a beer bust for \$6 at the Lone Star Saloon today from 1500 to 1900. Also selling \$1 hot dogs – all to benefit the Deaf AIDS Center.

Sunday, April 7

Mr. Daddy's Leather Gary Virginia hosts a beer bust at Daddy's from 1800 to 2100 for \$6. It's a cherry blossom event with Empress Cockatiella performing, an Easter bonnet contest and raffle tickets for "fine" art objects.

Pacific Bears MC hosts the Eagle beer bust from 1600 to 1900 (the new beer bust times), with a 50/50 raffle and food.

Free Easter dinner for everyone, 1300-1600, at First Unitarian Church (1187 Geary at Franklin). Wanna volunteer? Call 921-5026.

Wednesday, April 10

It's Wet Wednesday at 933 Harrison. You know the rules, and if you're not man enough, wear your rubber boots and slicker (yellow, of course) – and slide on in.

Friday, April 12

Golden Gate Guards MC beer

bust at Daddy's, 2100-2400.

Bathhouse (style) party and beer bust at the Turf Club in Hayward by Mr. Alameda County Drummer Roger Luttrell and former Mr. Alameda County Leather Randy Wright. Lots and lots of entertainment bathhouse style, if you know what I mean!

Saturday, April 13

Knights of Malta celebrates its fourth anniversary on the Eagle patio from 1800 to 2100. Admittance by club overlay or invitation in hand. Congratulations!

GSGRA/Bay Area chapter throws a beer bust for \$6 at Molly Brown's up at the RushRiv, 2100-midnight.

Wednesday, April 17

Leather Buddies at 933 Harrison. You know the rules. Wear boots. Act bitch. No cologne (sniffing in progress).

Saturday, April 20

Mr. SF Leather '96 contest, 2000, Alcazar Theatre. Tix \$20 advance/\$25 door. Get 'em now! At Mercury Mail Order (4084 18th St.) or at both Mister S Leather outlets. ▼

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Mr. Edge Leather '96 contestants (l to r): Daniel Sonnenfeld, first runner-up; Gary Strickland, the winner; and Ed "Felix" Novy, second runner-up.

questions and probings that had the audience in stitches.

While the Knights of Malta's \$6 beer bust and sloppy joe sales were in progress, the shenanigans onstage were as outrageous as ever. When the final scores were tallied, 36-year-old Scott "Boomer" Carson took the spot, with SF Leather Daddy's Boy Steve Crouse the runner-up. They'll be choosing Mr. August '97 on Thursday, April 11, so get your act together and win a spot, a \$100 cash prize and eternal fame!

With all the competition going on, you might want to know that you can enter the Mr. SF Leather competition without going through a bar contest or being sponsored by a business. The main requirement is that you have lived in San Francisco for at least a year. Applications are available at Mercury Mail Order (the Dildo Mines), 4084 18th St.

Frank Strona is giving a lecture on sex club etiquette at the Harvey Milk Institute on Wednesday, April 17, at 1930. The Scarlet Letter Services call it "Tricks to Successful Tricking." Call 552-7200 for details.

Numbers grow bigger

Here on the home front, the cadre of Mr. San Francisco Leather '96 contestants grew bigger as The Edge Bar hosted a wall-to-wall crowd for their Mr. Edge Leather '96 contest last Tuesday, March 26. Alan Selby and Paul Causey put the whole thing together, "with Danny Williams and the inimitable "Lurch" doing emcee/auction honors.

At least three dudes were put up for auction for dinner dates, but the whopper of the evening was a \$1300 bid for a dinner date with Stud About Town George Carreras. The bidding was hot and heavy throughout, and the lucky gentleman bidder was quite amused with his accomplishment.

Judges, former SF leather daddies Philip Turner, Don Thompson and Steve Gaynes, put the three contestants (Gary Strickland, Felix Novy and Daniel Sonnenfeld) through the paces of leather competition: an in-depth interview, cruise wear, brief wear, full leather and a 90-second speech in between goody and dinner date auction stuff. The crowd

was cooperative and enthusiastic, and Eric Weinmann seemed pleased throughout, even while limping about on a crutch.

This particular contest was unique in that Gary Strickland had assumed the title last November when the 1995 winner left town. Gary took on the job and did a great job fundraising.

The final results of the Mr. Edge Leather contest saw the same Gary Strickland as the winner; Daniel Sonnenfeld, first runner-up; and Felix Novy, the second runner-up. Mr. Strickland will compete in the Mr. San Francisco Leather contest April 20.

Meanwhile, the first-ever Mr. Castro Station Leather '96 contest was held last night (Wednesday, April 3). Deadlines being deadlines, I'll have the results and a photo of the winner(s) for you next week.

It's Closet Ball time again – or thanks for the mammaries! The big event is on Saturday, May 4. If you're planning to do your first drag ever, now's the time to get ready. Tickets range from \$10 to \$50. For contestant applications and ticket reservations, call 864-0673. ▼

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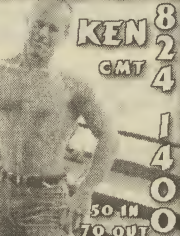
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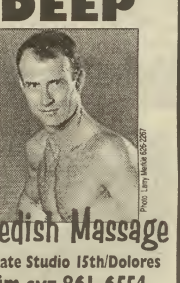
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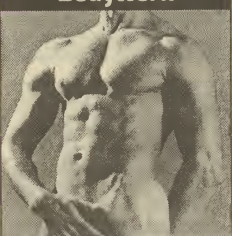
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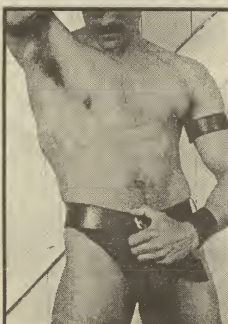
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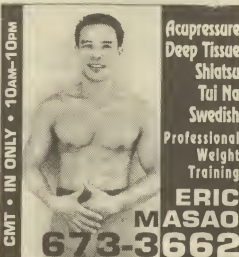
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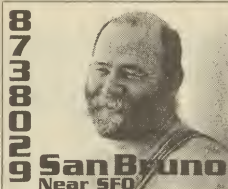

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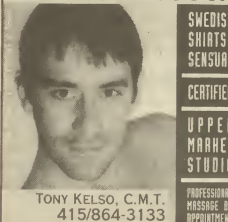
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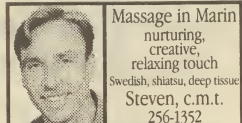
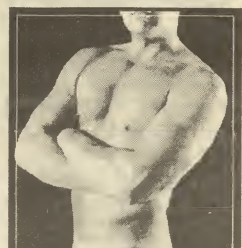
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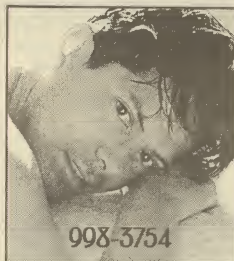
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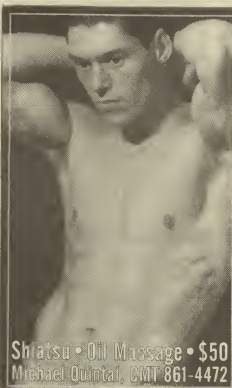
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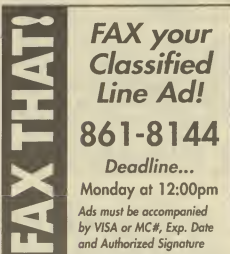
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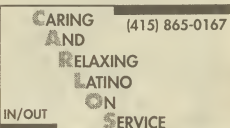
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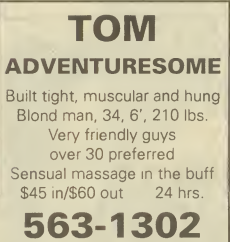
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(415) 865-0167
IN/OUT




Colt Model
European Masseur
Strong, Therapeutic Touch
CMT, Non-Sexual
Albert **863-0499**
9 am to 9 pm



TOM
ADVENTURESOME
Built tight, muscular and hung
Blond man, 34, 6', 210 lbs.
Very friendly guys
over 30 preferred
Sensual massage in the buff
\$45 in/\$60 out 24 hrs.
563-1302



MASSAGE!
by **DALLAS**
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**CMT OFFERS NURTURING
& THERAPUTIC MASSAGE**
TO STILL THE RATTLE, CALM THE FRAZZLE, AND
EASE THE EDGE RIGHT OUT OF YOUR DAY. LEAV-
ING YOU FEELING LIGHT, EASY AND RESTORED.
AFTERNOONS AND EVENINGS.
208-3414



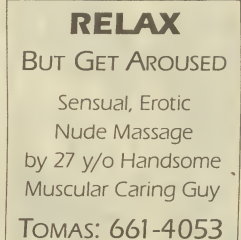
Matt, CMT
861-1746
Deep Tissue
Esalan
Castro
\$50/in



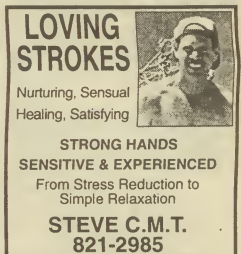
¡Caliente!
24 y.o., Super Handsome,
Dreamboy Latino
with Gymnast Build,
5'5", 145 lbs.
of Rock Hard Muscle!
Certified in Switzerland
Treat yourself to
International Pampering!
You deserve the best!
\$40/60 Paco 487-9575



**RELAX
BUT GET AROUSED**
Sensual, Erotic
Nude Massage
by 27 y/o Handsome
Muscular Caring Guy
TOMAS: 661-4053



**LOVING
STROKES**
Nurturing, Sensual
Healing, Satisfying
STRONG HANDS
SENSITIVE & EXPERIENCED
From Stress Reduction to
Simple Relaxation
STEVE C.M.T.
821-2985



2 Man Massage
A Warm Table, Two Great Look-
ing Men, Four Powerful Hands
and You!
A Two-Man Massage Team
w/Real Looks—Real Muscle!
SF's Most Creative Duo
is Equipped and Ready!
Call Muscle Endowment
Bill + Bill \$60 (415) 255-8725



HANS
NORWEGIAN MAN
Wholesomely Handsome, 33
6', 195 lbs., great tan body
1 1/2 hr. super massage
in nude: Japan Center
\$45/In \$60/Out 24 hours.
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**Blonde
Canadian**
A Touch of Class
Turn Your Fantasy into Reality!
Dynamite Massage for a Man
Who Demands Perfection!
Cathedral Hill Area \$45 in - \$60 out
Ron 922-3250
Leaving San Francisco
This is Good Bye!




surf this!
boy: beach
attitude: fresh
massage: erotic
swedish
deep tissue
chinese (tui na)
ian: 270-2548



models/escorts

Anthony
Photo: RAW STUDIOS



6'2
8 1/2 x 6
27 y.o.

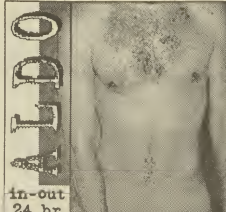
415.861.6027
Serving all bay areas

ITALIAN



807-9822

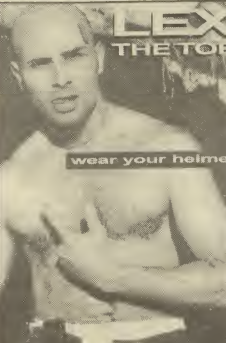
OLD



in-out
24 hr

PAGER 764-6326

LEX
THE TOP



wear your helmet

207-5231

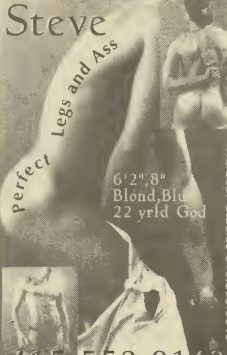
FALCON MODEL



TOM CHASE
10.5"x6"

800-985-0561

Steve



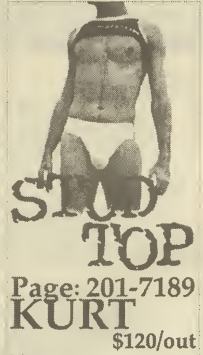
Perfect Legs and Ass

6'2", 8"
Blond, Blue
22 yrld God

Harbour Studios 510.865.9646

415.552.8143

STOP TOP



Page: 201-7189
KURT

\$120/out

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Hotel calls welcome

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Gives Best French When His Lady's
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24Y.O.
BLOND HUNK
TOUGH
HANDSOME
FRIENDLY
HUGE!

DALE • 522-8773

**GOLDEN
BOYZ**



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EROTIC

MALES!

GAY/BI/STRAIGHT
COUPLES/ALL SCENES
DIVERSE TYPES

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(Entire Bay Area)

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MODELS WANTED

Tops & Bottoms

Man's Hand Films
call (415) 771 3918 for
audition or send photo &
resume to:

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San Francisco CA 94109

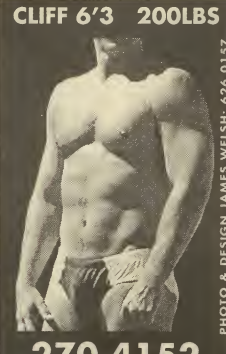
must be over 18

Sensual, Erotic Stud
WAY HOT!!!
TOP

- EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD LOOKING!
- Naturally smooth, lean, muscular Bod
- Dk brn hair/Blue eyes
- 25 y.o., 6', 175 lbs.
- Masculine & Hung

outcalls only
\$120 Nick: 678-1153

CLIFF 6'3 200LBS



270 4152
PAGER

PHOTO & DESIGN JAMES WELSH: 426 0157

100% SMOOTH
Hard-chiseled muscle, shaved head
No Body Hair.
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ITALIAN STUD - NEW AD.
Tight built, laid-back, lean
smooth & Masculine. Best of All,
Hung ... Like A Stallion!
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Tit Nipple Pec Massage
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Distinguished Age 40
Handsome Hung 8" & Thick
\$60 * DAVE * 922-3924

Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs
ASIAN TOP
\$80/\$100 * JIM 267-1817

Spank & Paddling * Kory
Safe Fantasies * 773-9130

Johnny
'Southern Hospitality'

24hrs OUT Pg-303-0373

JEFF



Photo: Harbour Studios

Hot, Handsome Stud
THE 9X7 CLUB
Experience The Total Package
Nice Body Great Personality.
Dominate Top. 24hrs.
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Masc. 36 Y/O Top * 605-1383

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BLACK GOLD
220 Lb Body Builder
10", Call Lasalle * 431-5923

TWENTY FIVE YEARS

Blond Long Hair, 22, Cute
6', Smooth, Hung. 522-1736

DOM. SKINHEAD
Takes You Down * 621-5016
Uniforms/Leather/SM/B&D &....?
BI/BI 5'11" 165# Very Masculine
My dungeon(\$100) or Out(\$125)
10AM-10PM Only. KARL

BB Bottom In/Marin, Out/Bay
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23 Yr Old Black Stud
Handsome, Boyish Look
Energetic and Easy to
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EXPERIENCED TOP
Cedric * \$60 * Out Only
Pager: (510) 639-6576

Passionate Versatile Bottom
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Special \$85/In, \$100/Out
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6'1" 180# Muscular Hndsm Stud
Gives You All * Kirk * 928-3199

Army Top 6'4", Blond, Ready
24 Hrs. Sgt Page 207-8089

HIRED MAN
Handsome Hung Versatile
Tall, Hairy, Blonde/Blue
Luke*24 Hrs* Page: 605-4013

Sexy Goodlooking Tom
HOT ASIAN
Pgr: 280-3735, Phone 860-7311

Enjoy Top
HUNK LATINO
EDUARDO
In/Out (415) 527-5334

6'3", 200, 30 y/o goatee, Br/Bl
HOT JR. EXEC.!!
Hung & Vers. 24Hrs 921-8607

LOVING TIME
Tender, affectionate Swim.
38 yo, mature, versatile
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LEATHERMAN
Bondage-S/M-Whips-Kink!
Gdkg Topman - Your Fantasy
My Talent*JACK*(415) 270-4496

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Gorgeous 18 yo. Blond/Blue
Lean, Smooth, Well-Hung
80-100 Byron Pgr 245-4325

SERIOUS MUSCLE
Real B.B., Thick, Ripped!
Handsome, Hung 9": 437-3464

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TATTOOED DADDY**
Out * 313-2005

9X6 24-HOURS
Call: 775-4771 * 24 Hours

Private J/O Strip Show
Rates adjust to time
10-15 minutes \$20 (in only)
20-25 Min \$30 In, \$50/Out
30 Min. & Up: \$40/In, \$60 Out
Tall, Lean, Hung MATT 552-7224

FF, TT, B/D, Toys, Sling +
Husky Dad Top. Fisting expert.
\$70 hr. \$30 ea add'l. 1/2 Hr
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varies) * 861-2668

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740-TOOL**

MODELS INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING ON LINE CALL 1-800-742-2499
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models/escorts

Excruciating...

Short, muscular, 41 yr. old sadist, dominant and expert with secure bondage, and prolonged, imaginative genital torture.

(415) 626-3034 Roger

butch look

764-6280

6'1" 190# 9"
muscular hairy
masculine good looks

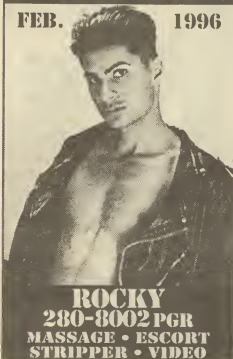
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FRAT MAN

Masculine, Horse-Hung Jock
Athletic Build • Friendly
Dominant • Verbal • Long Lasting
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PLAYGUY MODEL

FEB. 1996



ROCKY
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Spanker Warms Buns * 928-3199

Versatile Hot Boy, 29
Sexy, Solid, Trim & Muscular
5'10", 155#, Hung 8X6"
Page Jake * 709-0338

S.American/Italian, Hairy
8" Uncut, BBldr. Franco
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Cure Your Spring Fever
WILD 18 Y.O.
Punk kid, swimmer's build, sleek &
toned. Hot & Wild. Let your imagi-
nation roam.
Page: 764-7296

HOT LATINO
Dark, Smooth Skin
Masculine, Muscular, Hung
Handsome, Verbal Top
In/Out*SF * Steve * 207-9817

Handsome, Hunky, 32, 9X6"
NEEDS SERIOUS HEAD
*OutCalls*527-2842*Mike

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2 Rockhard, Smooth Globes
of Butt! 27 yo, 24 Hrs, 328-5304

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Call Mark * (415) 241-1541

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8 1/2" Uncut, 5'10", 175#, 28yo
Mark. All Scenes. Pgr: 560-9499

BUTCH BOY
Kix back w/br/bl, bubblebutt, 8" &
hardbod. Pgr: 202-6346

Shaved Smooth Surfer Dude
26, 5'10" 150Lbs w/7", Toned,
Tanlined Bod & a Pretty Ass
Sexy, Versatile & Very Horny
Out Only*Troy* 208-1165 * \$100

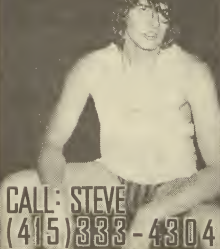
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Awesome Massage * 715-6410

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ATHLETIC JOCK
10" STUDDPOKER
Pager: 207-5315

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Cowpole * Erik * 527-1156

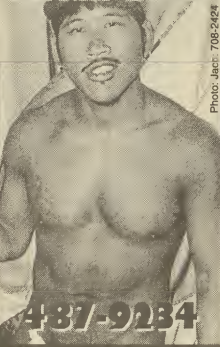
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SLIM /SMOOTH/ TALL
EXTREMELY HUNG 9"

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Asian Dude

* MID-PENNINSULA *
6+ Yrs Exp, CMT, Great Hands
In/Out, Tom, (415) 345-7318

Cute, Smooth, Tender
26Y/O ASIAN
In \$50. Out \$60
DAVE * 749-0488

Relaxing or Erotic By A
Very Smth Asian * 560-6353

Nude massage by cute guy
5'5" 135 Lbs Nice Chest and
Arms, Nice Body. Older Men
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Masterly Compleat Massage
by Gdldg Versatile Skilled Oak.
CMT. From strong to sensual
Greg 510 - 547-1364



Sensual Msg, Escort
& More Hot Jock
Discount for 2 Clients
346-7975 Kevin
Asian Dream

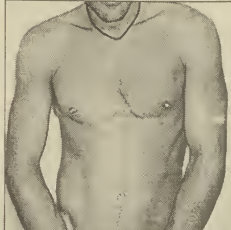
UCLA STUD
For hot manfun. New to scene. Vein-
popping cock, solid hairy pecs. Top,
In/Out. Page:
Adam * 208-9104

Masculine Dad
Very Handsome, Hairy, Hung
Day/Nite * Chad * Pgr 313-6336

SMOOTH LATINO
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Massage Masters
Total Attention
Asian - White
245-4481

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ESCORT / MASSAGE
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5'11" • 170 • 25 YO
PASSIONATE • VERSATILE

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\$150 ZACH

Athletic Massage * In/Out
Days/Eves * 715-6410 * MC/V

Feel Your Best, 24 Hrs, I/O
Kory * 773-9130. Experienced

Let Me Soothe Your Body!
SF'S BEST AT \$30
Receive the Ultimate Sensuality
Your Body Deserves, by a
Certified Pro. * 552-5364

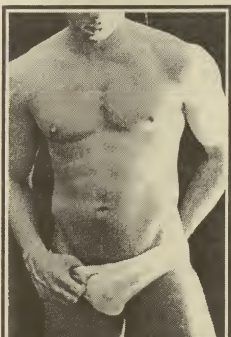
Massage 'N Play Hndsm, Musc.,
Italian when a man needs
more. * Tony * 487-1959

90 min for \$35. Thurs thru Sun.
Swedish massage by goodlooking
CMT. * 922-4962

Unwind in the arms of this
strong Japanese boy



24
6'
200#
YUKIO
313-4260
VM/Pager



ANDRE 597-3613

HOT
5'9", 155Lb Top Man, 23 yo
avlbl, cln shvn 7"ct. Mod Hry chst
w/smooth bubble butt. In \$55, Out
\$75. 24 Hrs. TJ 431-2753

NEED A MAN!
25 yo Vers-bottom 6', 150 Lbs
brn/blu, cln cut, 7" and more.
THEN READY TO PLEASE.
Out calls only! \$65
*SCOTTY*764-0490

LAT STUD 25 YO
135, 5'6", very handsome, sexy,
smooth, uncut 8" fun! Pg 303-0887

STALLION
Bpr # 807-5690

UNCUT BIKERSTUD

Hung Big - Low Hangers.
Handsome, Aggressive
• **Topman!!!**
Built, Friendly, Dominant!
Verbal, Open-Minded, 24 Hrs.

Craig \$80/In (415) 255-TOPP



HOT, HUNG 764-5188

PHOTO: Steve Savage 625-2610

HOT LATIN MEAT

~ 23 YO Smooth ~
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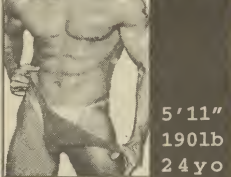


DAVID
TALL
HAIRY
HUNG
863-4847

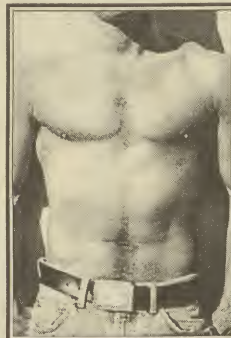
NEW AD GUYS!
IN FROM NYC, 6'0"
190; 29 YRS; 9 THICK
MEGAHOT * MUSCULAR
STUD: 1-800-976-SEND
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CODY LEE

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5'11"
190lb
24 yo
in S.F. 'til
April 10 only



TRENT 469-6994

SEXY GUY

Hung 9" and the Hottest



775-4771 24 Hrs

BLACK JOCK

9 U/C * Matt * Pg: 635-3441

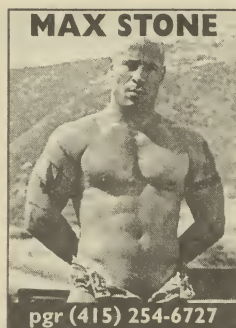
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HAVE ADAM
23, 5'10", Blonde, Blue, Tan, Defined, Very Good-Looking, Clean-Cut, All-American Boy Friendly, Affectionate, Sexy, Kissable, Passionate Bottom Outcalls \$120/hr 406.0860



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HOT, HAIRY, DOMINANT
Experienced, Most Scenes
Fully Stocked Private Playroom
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303-2782, In/Out - 24 Hrs.
HOT BLONDE!!
Very Cute * Young * Nice Body Hung * Safe * Versatile
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FIRST AD - I KICK BACK
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Smooth, Cute Puerto Rican
18 Y/O SEXY TOY
Carlos * Page 313-7731

Baby Bear - Hairy, Hung Thick
Alec - 22, 5'10", 180 lbs, 7"X6"
"Striking" \$100 * 239-HOT-F

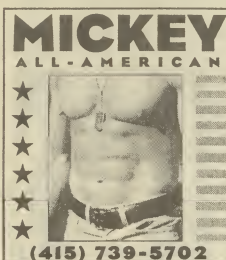
NEW AD GUYS!
IN FROM NYC, 6'0"
190; 29 YRS; 9 THICK
MEGAHOT * MUSCULAR
STUD: 1-800-976-SEND
ENTER MY PIN 1037592

FIST-TOYS
Beginners-Advanced
Nikos * Nob Hill * 885-1471
Need A Helping Hand?

SEXY ITALIAN STUDENT
Long Hair 5'10", Lean, Musc Body, 8", Uncut, Versatile
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Swedish Plowboy Likes To Sow His Seed Deeply
By Appt * 626-2669 * Alex

IF YOU LIKE 'EM HUNG THEN I'M THE ONE!
Hot guy next door treats you right!
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ALL-AMERICAN
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Available Evenings & Wkends
Also available 4/8-13 Days
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Muscleboy 5'7", 175, Hot!
Weeknights * All Night
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DARKEST CHOCOLATE
Top. \$60 * Damon
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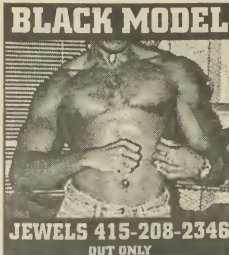
LEAN, HARD MUSCLE
5'10", 160#, Hung 8"
Works Hard. Stays Hard.
Jack * (415) 764-5805 Pager

Loveable 20 Y/O Boy With
LONG HAIR, TATTOOS
Slender, Safe, Sexy, Cute Little Ass to Play With.
DAMIEN * \$100 * Out Only
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PUNKGUY 10"
21 Y/O * Smooth
KEVIN * 208-9128

BLACK JOCK
9 U/C * Matt * Pg: 635-3441

SEXY LATIN
Kinky boytoy, smooth, tight body, Great Butt. 5'7", 135 lbs.
Pager: 202-6843



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JEWELS 415-208-2346
OUT ONLY

young smooth inches **10"**
Don @ 415.263.0585

Daddies, Bears and Chubbies (250lbs+)
Or any combination thereof, and the men that love them wanted to star in erotic videos. Fun work, easy-going atmosphere.
Call Rick (415) 543-1781

EXTREMELY ATTRACTIVE
BLOND BOYISHLY CUTE ATHLETIC CLEAN HEALTHY MASCULINE AND EROTIC YOUNG MAN AT YOUR SERVICE.
CHRIS 232-1557

CUTE, FRIENDLY
Athletic Skater w/Long Hair
Tight Body Loves to Cuddle
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BLACK MUSCLE
415 896-8360 245 lbs & hot. \$150
Hot Latino, 35 Y/O
FISTING TOP
Small experienced hands
In/Out * Page Bruno: 807-3684

Brothers
Shaved head Sk8r Top, 21
Buffed Soccer Jock Top, 26
Pgr 207-4786, 2 or 1, SF, Out

HOT BLACK TEEN
Smooth toned with playful sexy, energy. Versatile & Friendly.
Page me: 582-7606

BLACK LUV TOY
"ESSENCE OF PURE DELIGHT"
\$60-80 / (510) 840-7428

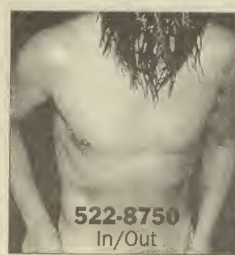
ITALIAN MARINE
210 Lbs. * 27 Years
560-2478

BLOND BOY TOY
24, 8", Smooth Body, Versatile & Horny Yummy Ass * \$100 *
605-4174 Pgr MATT

FRENCH CANADIAN
Bodybuilder
220 Lbs. * 26 years
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Adorable Pierced
BOYISH BLOND
6'1", 150, 8" X 6"
ZACH * Pgr: 605-0803

Wild, Sensual, Sexy, Earthy
Modern Primitive Boy
5'10", 140#, Gdiking & Healthy
Grrr ...Woof! Jesse * 202-1069
Unleash Your Primal Self!



522-8750
In/Out

HOT ITALIAN
Fun, Friendly & Gorgeous 6'2",
190 Lbs, Beautiful, Hard, Smooth Body
that loves to be Touched! \$150/Hour
Victor (415) 522-1909

TALL-BLOND-SMOOTH
HOT YOUNG BOY
9" THICK
DANIEL 267-6140

SEXY ENERGY W/O THE HYPE
compact torso
great chest
tight butt
487.1621
Rick

S/M SENSUALITY
-long, & slow- my specialty.
6'2", 185, strong, gymtoned
master into all aspects &
degrees of leatherplay.
S/M, B&D, FF, WS, raunch.
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DADDY—S & M MASTER
Come to this secluded spot out in the country and surrender. Give yourself up to the power of masculine energy. Let yourself be dominated by an experienced and highly-trained master who knows what you want and will give it to you—slowly, sensuously, and powerfully.
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For Generous Gentlemen
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HOT * HAIRY * HUNG
26, Dark Hair, 9"
Swimmer's Body
JASON * 764-0509

all, Slim, Blond, Smooth, Friendly
Call Jonathan for Instant Pleasure
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Italian College Boy
Ray
674-8716

30 Y.O.
5'10"
200LB
BLOND/BLUE
MUSCLE HUNK
IN/OUT \$100
MIKE (415) 863-8932

Dane 3031541
9x5

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smooth muscular fine
24hr 206-9693

BLACK JOCK
9 U/C * Matt * Pg: 635-3441

wouldn't miss it!

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Thursday • April 4

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Photo by Greg Gorman



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